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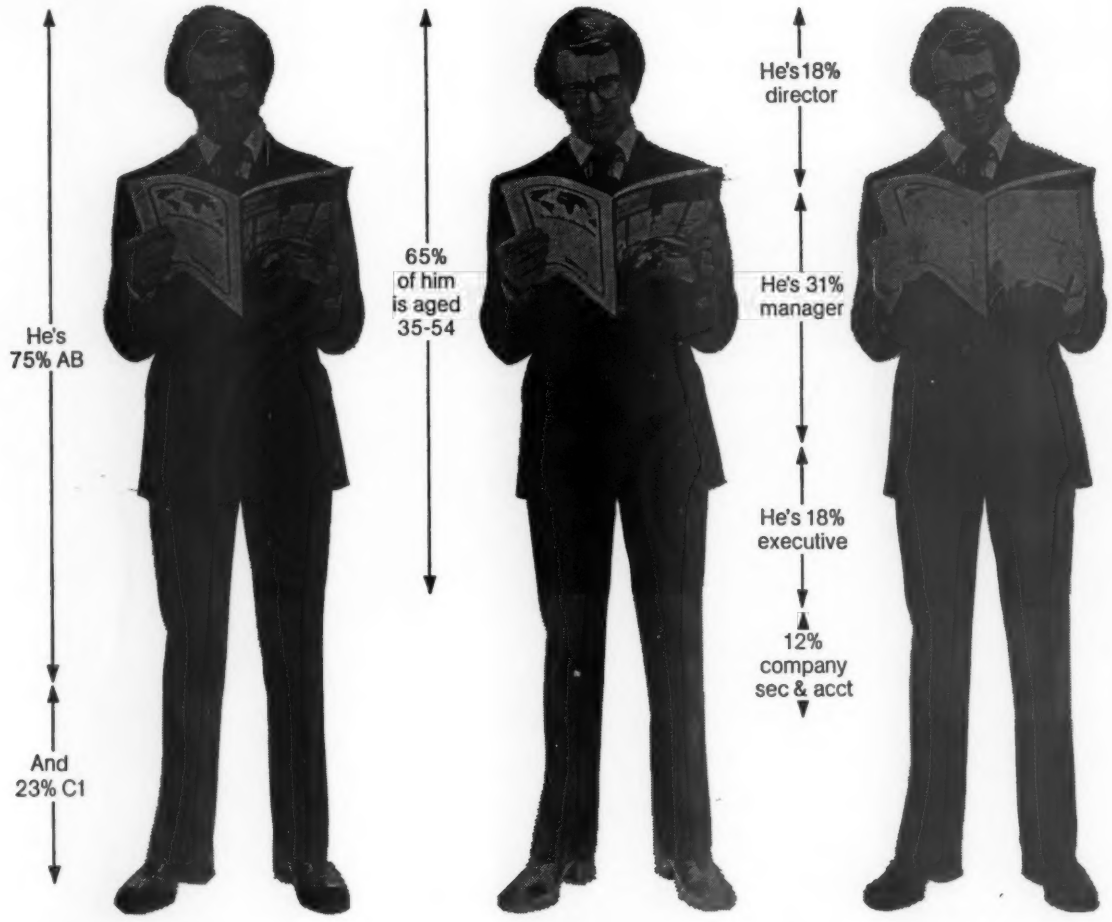

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Trade and Industry

31 October 1975

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Industry Act assistance, Concorde production, EEC Regional Development Fund, food subsidies, metrication, imports from Taiwan . . . These are a few of the subjects covered this week in our regular feature on Parliament. Each week answers are reported to questions put to the Ministers of the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection.

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Home News

Timetable for licensing under Consumer Credit Act

The first applications for licences under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 are expected to be invited in February 1976, John Methven, Director General of Fair Trading, announced on 23 October 1975.

Speaking at a meeting of the Scottish Branch of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration in Melrose, Mr. Methven said 'Subject to an Order by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection bringing licensing into effect, my Office will launch a national advertising campaign in January advising all those engaged in the UK credit and hire industries of the need to apply for a licence.'

Following wide consultation with the industry and others it is planned to invite licence applications by business categories in three stages:

Stage One: credit reference agencies, debt collectors, debt adjusters and debt counsellors, to apply in February, 1976 with the licences taking effect from August, 1976.

Stage Two: consumer credit and hire businesses to apply in August, 1976 with the licences taking effect about six months later.

Stage Three: credit brokers to apply in the first half of 1977.

The selection of ancillary credit business other than credit brokerage as the first stage means that the control imposed by licensing will shortly apply to two areas where there has been particular public interest, namely debt collecting and credit reference agencies who collect and provide information about consumers who are seeking credit.

The second stage will bring within licensing consumer credit and consumer hire businesses. The credit grantors covered by these categories include banks, finance houses and retailers who provide their own credit facilities. The final stage is credit brokerage which covers those who introduce their customers to sources of loans or credit to finance the purchase of goods or services. The car dealer selling cars on hire purchase provided by a finance company will require a licence in this category.

Advertisements in national newspapers and major trade magazines will precede each stage of the licensing operation, giving details of the categories of business involved and the dates when applications should be made. Application forms and free explanatory leaflets are now being prepared.

Commenting on the licensing procedure Mr. Methven said: 'We have issued a number of consultation papers on the implementation of licensing and some useful suggestions have been received from the credit industry. This will be an enormous task – probably the biggest licensing operation undertaken in the UK in peacetime – and we may deal with up to 100,000 applications. There will be some 12,000 applications in the first stage. Calling up applications in stages will mean that licensing is introduced as smoothly as possible.'

The Consumer Credit Act 1974 modernises and rationalises the law about credit, hire and hire purchase. Consumers will be given new and wider protection. The Act will be brought into force by regulation over the next 18 months and it will be implemented by the OFT and enforced jointly by the OFT and local authorities. Local authorities will also be involved in publicising the Act to traders and consumers.

Virtually all businesses involved in credit and hire will need a licence from the OFT. This includes banks, finance houses and the high street trader or car dealer who arranges credit for his customers. The applicant will need to satisfy the OFT that he is a 'fit person' to run a credit business. Trading Standards Officers of local authorities will be able to submit any information about an applicant's previous conduct to the OFT. It is anticipated that up to 100,000 licences will be issued.

Advertisements and documentation will have to disclose much more information to the consumer, including full details of the credit facilities being offered and in particular the disclosure of the true annual rate of interest.

Credit reference agencies will have to give consumers details of information they hold on file about them, if requested to do so.

Other provisions include: rebates for early settlement of loans, courts enabled to re-open extortionate credit agreements, suppliers of credit made jointly responsible with suppliers of goods for any misrepresentation or breach of contract, controls on door-to-door canvassing of credit and cooling-off periods for agreements signed off trade premises.

Price surveys prove their worth

Voluntary local price surveys have proved valuable forerunners to the Government's scheme to have weekly surveys of food prices, said Robert Maclennan on 23 October.

Speaking in Grimsby, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Prices and Consumer Protection went on: 'The first survey by the Consumers' Association of South Humberside showed that a saving of 41½p could be made on a shopping basket of national brand items by buying at the cheapest shop, and this could have been increased to 77½p if purchases had been confined to own brands. This considerable saving amply demonstrates how useful informed shopping is in the struggle against inflation and I am grateful to the National Federation of Consumer Groups for their work and for their willingness to continue the surveys on an occasional basis.

'Government grants of up to £1,000 are now available to local authorities and other bodies to encourage the carrying out of weekly price surveys in local shopping centres and I have pleasure in announcing that Humberside has today been granted approval for four such schemes in Grimsby, Hull, Scunthorpe and Beverley.

'The schemes should be able to get started within a month or so and the aim is to have price lists widely publicised within the locality, comparing the prices of at least 20 basic grocery items and a number of fresh foods at the main stores within a shopping centre. The stores will be named, the total price of the basket of goods at each store will be quoted, and the information will be available in time for the weekend shopping.

'I am very pleased at the response to our circular – two-thirds of the weights and measures authorities have applied. Where they have not, we shall consider applications from district councils and voluntary groups.

'I believe that this is valuable work and that it should prove beneficial to consumers caught in the cross-fire of wage restraint and rising prices.'

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, with Dr. Ghazi Al Qusaibi, Saudi Arabian Minister of Electricity and Industry. Dr. Qusaibi, who was in Britain last week at the invitation of the Prime Minister, also had talks with Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade.

Petrol retailing: possible Monopolies Commission reference

In consultation with Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, the Director General of Fair Trading 'is urgently considering the form which a further reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission would take in respect of the involvement of oil companies in certain aspects of petrol retailing'.

This was stated by Mrs. Williams in answer to a Parliamentary Question on 28 October. She had been asked whether she would take steps to prevent a monopoly of oil-company-owned retail units being created and to protect privately-owned petrol stations from bankruptcy.

The previous day, Mrs. Williams told a Member that she was considering representations from retailers' associations about the price of petrol, and could assure him that the major oil companies were ceasing their policy of discounts from the end of the month. In addition to the urgent consideration of the possibility of a further reference to the Monopolies Commission, Mrs. Williams was, with the Secretary of State for Energy, considering inquiries into the level of wholesale prices for petrol.

The question of 'various gimmicks' to which another Member referred, such as advertising 7p, 5p or 4p off, were being urgently considered by the Director General of Fair Trading.

Mrs. Williams added that petrol consumption in August was 7 per cent below the figure for August 1974, and the situation was 'leading garages to cut each other's throats in an effort to stay in business'.

Price surveys total reaches ninety

Ninety applications for local price survey grants have so far been approved as a result of the announcement by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection of £1,000 grants for schemes in parts of Cleveland, Humberside, Wales and London.

The surveys aim to provide the housewife with an important weapon for combating the rising cost of living. The grants were announced in the Government's counter-inflation package after pilot schemes had shown that information from local surveys could save housewives nearly 20p in the £ on their shopping bills without having to shop around.

The latest areas for local price comparisons approved are:

LONDON: Elephant and Castle, Walworth Road;

CLEVELAND: Middlesbrough; Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool, Redcar;

HUMBERSIDE: Hull, Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Beverley;

WALES: Cardiff (City Centre), Cardiff (Canton/Grangetown), Cardiff (Roath), Carmarthen, Llanelli, Llandudno, Barry, Penarth.

Similar schemes from other parts of the country are under consideration.

The surveys will be carried out under the direction of the departments responsible for consumer protection matters in the appropriate local authority areas. The scheme at Llanelli will be run by the Llanelli CAB and those at Barry and Penarth by the Penarth CAB.

First Scottish price surveys get go-ahead

Thirteen shopping centres in the Strathclyde region will be the first places in Scotland to qualify for grants to undertake local price surveys, Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said on 24 October.

Mr. Maclennan, who was meeting the convenor, members of the Consumer Affairs Committee and the Chief Trading Standards Officer of the Strathclyde Regional Council, told them: 'The allocation of these £1,000 grants for surveys will give housewives in the area an important weapon in the battle against inflation.'

The surveys, which should begin shortly, will produce lists comparing the prices of at least 20 basic grocery items and a number of fresh foods at the main stores in a shopping centre. The results will be widely publicised.

The shopping centres covered are: Glasgow – City Centre; Glasgow – Drumchapel; Glasgow – Easterhouse; Glasgow – Castlemilk; Motherwell; Coatbridge; East Kilbride; Paisley; Greenock; Kilmarnock; Ayr; Dumbarton; and Campbeltown/Dunoon/Oban/Rothesay in rotation.

The surveys will be carried out under the direction of the departments responsible for consumer protection matters in the appropriate local authority areas.

Tighter controls on bread prices

Cuts in retailers' buying prices of bread will be passed on in full to shoppers. This is ensured by an order effective from 27 October, which will also see that retailers will not be able to charge more for standard bread simply because it is sold in a plastic wrapping in place of a waxed one. The order was laid before Parliament by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 24 October 1975.

The Bread Prices (Amendment) (No. 4) Order 1975 (SI 1721, price 8p available from HMSO and Government bookshops) amends The Bread Prices Order 1975.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before her not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Allstate Insurance Co. and Windsor Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

Lloyds and Scottish Ltd. and Alex Lawrie Factors Ltd.

Butter prices

The statutory maximum retail prices for butter are increased by 1½p per ½lb today (31 October). The new limits are the result of higher prices manufacturers will be paying for milk and higher costs of imported butter following the devaluation of the 'Green Pound'.

Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State for Industry (centre), at the Wedgwood factory at Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent. He is talking with ornamentor Derek Wilcox. On the right is Arthur Bryan, Wedgwood chairman.

Five factories for Ebbw Vale area

The Welsh Industrial Estates Corporation has announced that contracts have been placed recently for five factories in the Ebbw Vale area, four of which are to be built at Tafarnaubach, a new large Industrial Estate adjacent to the Heads of the Valley Road linking South Wales with the Midlands. The fifth factory, of 929m² (10,000 sq. ft), to be constructed on a smaller site at Cwm Ddraw, Ebbw Vale, is expected to be ready in the spring of 1976.

Three of the Tafarnaubach factories will be of 2,323m² (25,000 sq. ft) each and the fourth of 4,646m² (50,000 sq. ft), the whole programme of four being due for completion in approximately one year, with the first one ready next April. H. M. R. Burgess and Partners, Cardiff, are the architects for this programme, the quantity surveyors are W. T. Hills and Co., Cardiff, and the building contractors are George Wimpey and Co. Ltd., Cardiff.

The architects for the factory at Cwm Ddraw are Holder and Mathias Partnership, Cardiff, the quantity surveyors are G. A. Downie and Partners, Cardiff, and the building contractors are Stancliff Contractors Ltd., of Cardiff.

The programme is aimed at providing predominantly male employment in the Ebbw Vale area, which will be affected by redundancies in the British Steel Corporation works. It is hoped that the combined efforts of the Welsh Office, the local authorities and the British Steel Corporation will succeed in attracting suitable industries.

These contracts, which include some site preparation and road works, will involve a total expenditure approaching £1.5 million, which has been authorised by the Welsh Office.

Anglesey to get two advance factories

The Welsh Industrial Estates Corporation has announced the construction of two advance factories at Gaerwen, Anglesey.

Each of these factories, which are being built in advance of demand, is 929m² (10,000 sq. ft) in area and is aimed at providing predominantly male employment in Angelesey, where present unemployment is above the national average. It is hoped these factories will be completed in the late spring of 1976.

The architects for these factories is Robert Davies, of Holyhead, the quantity surveyors are I. E. Symonds and Partners, Colwyn Bay, and the building contractors are Watkin Jones and Son Ltd., of Bangor.

'Fair Deal' leaflets for shoppers

Authoritative but easily-read advice on the rights and obligations of shoppers and shopkeepers is to be made widely available in leaflet form at the place where most shopping difficulties first arise – the shop counter.

The leaflet – entitled 'Fair Deal Across The Counter' – has been produced by the Office of Fair Trading for free distribution to consumers in shops. It is intended to have a double use. Given by the shopkeeper to his customers, the leaflet will explain basic shopping rights to those customers, who, perhaps, are unlikely ever to be in touch with a Consumer Advice Centre, Citizens' Advice Bureau or Trading Standards Officer. And if a dispute arises over goods, it is an immediately-available reference document for customer and shopkeeper.

Subjects dealt with on the leaflet include cash refunds, credit notes, exchanges of purchases and repairs.

The leaflet was prepared by the Office of Fair Trading in consultation with the National Federation of Consumer Groups, the National Chamber of Trade, the Retail Trading-Standards Association and the Institute of Trading Standards Administration. All these organisations, and local authority Trading Standards Departments, are helping with distribution of supplies to shops. The National Federation of Consumer Groups are asking member-groups to distribute the leaflet as part of their national scheme to help shopkeepers understand and interpret correctly the consumer protection laws affecting them.

Shopkeepers and trade associations can obtain copies of the leaflet from these organisations or by writing direct to: Central Office of Information (LH 502), Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

Minister sees Consumer Advice Centre at work

Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, visited the Greenock Consumer Advice Centre on 24 October.

Mr. Maclennan talked to officials from Inverclyde Council, Strathclyde Regional Council and the staff at the centre about their work. The centre is at 23 Clyde Square.

The visit to Greenock Consumer Advice Centre is one of a series of occasional visits being made by Mr. Maclennan to CAC's throughout the country. The purpose of the visits is to see at first-hand the work of CAC's.

Domestic air trunk route fare increases

Following applications by airlines and a public hearing held on 7, 9 and 14 October, the Civil Aviation Authority has approved certain increases in fares on domestic trunk and related routes from 1 November 1975, the introduction of a Gatwick 'discount' fare at off peak hours, and instant purchase excursion fares on the London-Manchester and Gatwick-Glasgow/Edinburgh routes.

In giving its decisions the Authority says the overall logic is simple and straightforward – domestic air fares need urgently to rise, in real terms, if the services themselves now mostly operated at a heavy loss are to survive. At the same time the Authority has introduced a differential designed to secure a modest shift in the balance of traffic between Heathrow and Gatwick which will both benefit the public and show how far price considerations determine the choice of airports by the passenger.

In approving the increases the Authority stresses that on a number of recent occasions it has emphasised the pressing need to restore domestic air services to a profitable condition. This can only be achieved by raising fares in real terms, so as to remedy past underpricing as well as to keep pace with current cost increases including oil prices. The need for an adequate operating surplus is all the greater in a period of rapid inflation.

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by British Airways and British Caledonian was small (£1) and of short duration (to the end of March 1976), as both of them indicated that they will be seeking further increases from 1 April 1976.

The Authority has granted British Caledonian's application for a Gatwick special tourist fare, available at a discount of £2 at off-peak times only. The discounted fare should be capable of making a useful contribution to the redistribution of traffic between Heathrow and Gatwick, without an unduly adverse impact upon the operator of Heathrow services. The £2 differential would appear to be a relatively modest step towards the redistribution of traffic and the remuneration of investment in airport development. Full details of all the changes approved will be published in the CAA's Official Record.

The main changes are:

Class			Present fare £	Fare from 1.11.75 £
TRUNK ROUTES London-Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast, Prestwick				
First (Heathrow and Gatwick	one-way		28.50	34.00
Tourist (Heathrow and Gatwick)	one-way		19.00	23.00
Tourist (Gatwick only – discount)	one-way – available only on flights between 08.30-16.30 and 18.30-06.00 (Glasgow and Prestwick) and between 08.30-16.30 and 20.30-06.00 (Belfast and Edinburgh)		19.00	21.00
Tourist off-peak (Heathrow only)	one-way		13.00	17.00
Tourist off-peak (Gatwick only – discount)	one-way		13.00	15.50
Excursion return (Heathrow only)	1/10-15/6		26.00	34.00
Excursion return (Gatwick only – discount)	1/10-15/6		26.00	31.00
IPEX (Gatwick only)	return 1/11-31/3 (Sat.-Sun.) Edinburgh and Glasgow only		—	25.00
LONDON – MANCHESTER ROUTE				
IPEX (Gatwick only)	return – 1/11-31/3 (Sat.-Sun.)		—	20.00
LONDON (Heathrow and Gatwick) TO ABERDEEN AND VV				
Tourist	one-way		25.20	29.00
Excursion return	(Sat.-Sun.)	1/1-15/6	33.00	36.00
LONDON (Heathrow and Gatwick) TO INVERNESS AND VV				
Tourist	one-way		27.30	31.40
Excursion return	1/10-15-6 (Sat.-Sun.)		33.00	36.00
GLASGOW – BOURNEMOUTH AND SOUTHAMPTON AND VV				
Tourist	one-way		19.30	23.00
Excursion return	1/10-15/6		26.60	34.00
PRESTWICK – BOURNEMOUTH AND SOUTHAMPTON AND VV EDINBURGH – BOURNEMOUTH, PORTSMOUTH AND SOUTHAMPTON AND VV				
Tourist	one-way		19.30	23.00

BELFAST ROUTES
Tourist one-way fares

Route	Percentage increase	Period	Present fare £	Fare from 1.11.75 £
Belfast-Exeter	15	Year round any day	20.00	23.00
Belfast-Newcastle	15	Summer		
		Sun.-Fri.	14.60	16.80
		Saturday	16.70	19.20
		Winter		
		Any day	14.60	16.80
Belfast-Manchester	13	Summer		
		Sun.-Fri.	13.50	15.30
		Saturday	15.80	17.90
		Winter		
		Any day	13.50	15.30
Belfast-Southampton	5	Year round any day	22.50	23.70

BELFAST – CHANNEL ISLANDS
All tourist one-way fares to be increased by 15 per cent. The return inclusive tour fares to be restructured as follows:

Period		Percentage of normal one-way fare
1 April-31 May		145
1 June-30 September (available Mon.-Thurs. only)		160
1 October-31 October		145
1 November-31 March	Any day	130
	Frid. to Mon.	116

Increase in fees for registration of films and exhibitors' and renters' licences

Regulations prescribing new fees to be charged under the Films Act 1960 (as extended and amended by the Films Act 1970) for the registration of films and for exhibitors' and renters' licences have been made by the Department of Trade. The regulations come into operation on 1 November 1975.

The increase in fees is necessary to enable the Department to cover the costs of administering the Films Act 1960, as required by Section 44(3) of the Act. The new fees are as follows:

On an application for the registration of a film under Section 19 of the Films Act 1960 (ie a co-production film)	£500.00
On any other application for the registration of a film, including newsreels	£20.00
On an application to amend the Register	£9.50
On an application to inspect the Register (for each half-hour)	30p
On an application for a certified copy of an entry in the Register	£1.20
On an application for a renter's licence	£50.00
On an application for an exhibitor's licence:	
(a) for a calendar year	£20.00
(b) for a quarterly period	£6.00
(c) for two quarterly periods	£11.50
(d) for three quarterly periods	£17.00

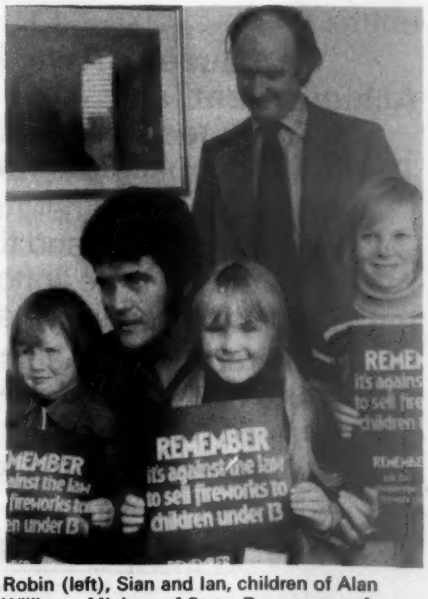
The cost to the Department of Trade in administering the Films Acts has continued to rise and despite the increase which took effect on 1 January 1975 a further increase is now necessary in order to cover the costs of administration.

Copies of the new Statutory Instruments are available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, or through any bookseller. They are:

SI 1975 No. 1656 The Films (Exhibitors) (Amendment) Regulations 1975
SI 1975 No. 1657 The Films (Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 1975
SI 1975 No. 1658 The Films (Registration of Newsreels) (Amendment) Regulations 1975
SI 1975 No. 1659 The Films (Renters' Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 1975

Carriage by Air (Sterling Equivalents) Order 1975

On page 127 of *Trade and Industry*, 17 October, we referred to the Carriage by Air (Sterling Equivalents) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1613) which is available from HMSO. The price should have read 8p (14p including postage), not as quoted.



Robin (left), Sian and Ian, children of Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, visited their father's office this week to meet Alvin Stardust. The pop singer has contributed to this year's firework safety campaign mounted by the Department, while Pop himself is the Minister with special reponsibility for firework safety.

Now there are two Queen's Awards.

The Queen's Award to Industry Scheme has been reviewed and in future there will be two separate Awards entitled:

"The Queen's Award for Export Achievement" and

"The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement."

The first of the new style Awards will be made in 1976 and the lists of Award winners will be announced on the Queen's personal birthday, 21st April.

General arrangements and selection procedures remain basically the same as before but eligibility for the Export Award has been extended to certain classes of indirect exporting and to export agents.

For full details about eligibility and for application forms get in touch with The Secretary, The Queen's Awards Office, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, Telephone number 01-222 2277, telex 27366.

Any industrial unit based in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, producing goods or providing services, may apply irrespective of size.

Please send in your application as soon as possible.

The closing date for the 1976 Awards is 30 November 1975.

Peter Shore on protection for UK clothing industry

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, last week assured the British clothing industry of the Government's concern for protecting it from the high level of textile imports from all sources.

Mr. Shore, who was opening the London Fashion Fair International, sponsored by the Clothing Export Council, said: 'The level of textile imports (from all sources, not just low-cost producers) is high, with market penetration by imports of 40-60 per cent in the types of fabrics produced by Lancashire and upwards of 40 per cent in several major clothing items.

'The Government has, this year, sought to give the clothing industry more protection than it has had before, through the conclusion of bilateral agreements with various countries, and through the activities of the EEC. On 1 September we brought in import surveillance for most items of clothing and this will enable us to keep a much closer watch on the situation. You may rest assured that we are ready and willing to consider further measures if evidence of the need is substantiated in the light of our international obligations.

'In short, as producers we have to compete still more strongly not only in export markets but at home as well. And as consumers we have to give the goods made in our own factories a fair chance. As a country we need to export proportionately more and import proportionately less.'

Mr. Shore continued: 'I am pleased that the British clothing industry is currently selling more than 40 per cent of its exports in the rest of the European Community – although I need hardly remind you that, at less than 4 per cent of the Community market for clothing, we still have a long way to go before we get anywhere near to our proper share, just as we still have far to go in many other export categories.

'The industry must continue to expand its marketing world-wide. We must never forget that we are a world trader. Our current share of total world exports of clothing is only 3½ per cent – so there is considerable room for improvement. In the many overseas visits I have made during the last 10 months in the cause of trade and exports I have seen the massive scope for British goods and also how fast market conditions are changing. And I should like to assure your industry that the BOTB's export services will continue to help and encourage their export promotion efforts throughout the world.

'Lord Beswick a week ago announced a £20 million scheme of assistance for clothing. The purpose is to help with re-organising and restructuring the industry, and to encourage firms to invest in modern equipment and to take other measures which will lead to increased productivity.

'The Government has no intention of forcing rationalisation. It is the industry's responsibility – not the Government's – to make whatever arrangements are necessary to ensure that for quality and value, as well as ideas, British clothing stays on top.

'The facts of modern industrial life must be faced. Success in exporting and in organising industrial capacity demands partnership and co-operation between Government and industry, just as it requires teamwork between management and workforce. And the more enthusiastic the partnership, the greater will be the success. Conversely, co-operation which is half-hearted will lead to diminished achievements.'

'Britain's world lead in baking technology'

Eric Deakins, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, last week paid tribute to the role Britain has played in the development of baking technology and to the contribution exports of baking machinery and associated equipment makes to Britain's balance of payments.

Opening Interbake '75, the 48th International Bakers' and Confectioners' Exhibition, at Olympia, Mr. Deakins said: 'Careful groundwork has put Britain in a position where we lead the world in process and oven technology. Our machinery industry has demonstrated an outstanding capacity for designing, manufacturing and installing complete bakery plants, which take in the basic raw materials at one end, and deliver sliced, wrapped loaves at the other. Clearly this is one of those areas where it makes good commercial sense for both home and overseas buyers to "Buy British".

'As a trade Minister, of course, I am particularly interested in, and gratified by, the impressive export record that this lead in technology has already helped to give the industry – with more than half its output devoted to exports.

'Exports of bakery machinery alone have risen from £4.4 million in 1970 to £6.7 million in 1974, and despite the world slump, have been running at virtually the same rate this year. When ovens, mechanical handling equipment, flour handling and proving are added, the total export value to this country must come to more than £20 million.

'Earlier this year, the British Overseas Trade Board was responsible for sponsoring an Inward Mission of editors from 12 foreign trade journals for the bakery and confectionery trades, who visited various British plants, factories and research establishments involved with the industry. Activities of this kind – and the reverse side of the coin, sponsored outward missions, and fairs and exhibitions overseas – can do a great deal to help generate new trade. I can assure the industry that improving services to exporters is a constant preoccupation of my Department, and that the special problems of your industry are not overlooked.

'It is overseas where many of the fastest-growing markets for new baking machinery and plant are likely to continue to be found. One region where the demand for Western-type bread has been steadily increasing since the Second World War is the Far East, perhaps a bit surprisingly in view of the traditional image of that part of the world as being an almost exclusively rice-eating area. But it means that growing opportunities for bakery equipment must exist there, and should be worth looking at.'

Poolespill – oil pollution exercise

An oil pollution exercise to test the ability of national and local authorities to deal with an oil spill, was held by the Department of Trade on 24 October. Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, witnessed part of the exercise and afterwards visited Royal National Lifeboat Institution Headquarters, Poole.

The exercise assumed that a coastal tanker loaded with fuel oil struck, at 06.00 hours, a submerged object off Studland Bay, in the approaches to Poole Harbour.

Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company – Inspectors appointed

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed under the provisions of Section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948 Peter Julian Millett, QC, of 9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2, and Ian MacDonald Bowie, chartered accountant, of 11 Ironmonger Lane, London EC2, to act as Inspectors to investigate the affairs of The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Co. Ltd.

John Willment Automobiles report published

The report of Inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of John Willment Automobiles Ltd., 161 Chertsey Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, has been published.

The Inspectors, Mr. P. J. Millett, QC, and Mr. M. R. Harris, FCA, were appointed on 30 May 1973 under the provisions of Section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948 as amended. Their report was submitted on 5 May 1975.

Pedestrian tunnelling at the Weston Favell shopping centre in Northampton, a project employing the High Duty Alloys' extruded aluminium box curves now being supplied to the Livingstone new town shopping centre, near Edinburgh. The extrusions hold thermosplastic glazing material and are supplied direct to the site ready to erect.

Government still to decide on nuclear fuel reprocessing

'The Government is not prepared to allow the United Kingdom to become a permanent repository for storing other countries' nuclear waste,' said Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, last week.

In a statement, following press reports on the proposed reprocessing in the UK of Japanese nuclear fuel, Mr. Benn said: 'British Nucleal Fuels Ltd. already reprocesses nuclear fuel from our own nuclear reactors and is currently discussing with the Japanese electrical utilities the possibility of taking on reprocessing work arising from certain new Japanese reactors. No contract would be concluded without Government consent, and the Government is now considering whether it is acceptable to take on this work, or similar work, from other foreign countries. Their main concern in this is that the United Kingdom should not become a permanent repository for storing other countries' nuclear waste.

'The main problem involved is dealing with the comparatively small quantities of high-activity nuclear waste which result from the reprocessing of irradiated fuel. At present, these must be stored in liquid form. BNFL is, however, developing, for full-scale use, an already tested process for turning these wastes into a glass-like solid, in which form they would be easier to handle and store and could, in particular, be safely transported.

'The basis proposed for the Japanese business is for there to be a firm agreement, which the UK Government would seek to support by intergovernmental understandings, that BNFL shall have the option to return nuclear waste arising to Japan in a solidified form when this process has been developed.

'As a longstop, the contract would also provide that, if a suitable glassification process could not be developed, BNFL would have the further option to discontinue their obligation to reprocess the fuel concerned. This would eliminate the risk of having to undertake long-term storage here.

'The Government is considering whether it would be acceptable to take work on such terms from Japan or other foreign countries.

'BNFL is currently undertaking reprocessing work for certain European countries and Japan under existing contracts which do not contain waste return clauses. The work concerned, however, represents only a small addition to that which arises from the United Kingdom's nuclear programme.

'Up to 1990, it would add only about 10 per cent to the "home" load and, after that date, its relative significance would decline. About half this foreign work is fuel coming from reactors which the United Kingdom has itself sold to Japan and Italy.

'The high activity waste arising from these existing contracts is at present stored in liquid form. But in the longer term, as with waste arising from the home programme, the problems of storage will be greatly reduced when BNFL's glassification process has been developed.'

Concorde noise measurements

Results of the Concorde noise measurements made at Casablanca were given by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, in answer to a Parliamentary question on 28 October.

The noise measurements at Casablanca, to which the Secretary of State for Trade referred in his statement of 13 October, were carried out in November and December 1974 during a series of flight demonstrations of the production Concorde 202, said Mr. Varley.

'The measurements, using procedures specified in US Federal Aviation Regulations Part 36 which are analogous to International Civil Aviation Organisation techniques contained in Annex 16 of the Chicago Convention, were made by the British Aircraft Corporation, Aerospatiale and the Service Technique de la Navigation Aerienne.

The report is now available, and shows that the trials resulted in readings of 119.5 EPNdB (effective perceived noise decibels) on take off, 116.7 EPNdB on landing, and 112.2 EPNdB on sideline. These figures are comparable with those of the older narrow-bodied subsonic jets:

EPNdB

	Take-off	Landing
Boeing 707-320C	114	120
DC8-61	115	116

Rates of interest on Industry Act assistance raised

The maximum rate of Interest Relief Grant and the interest rates for loans under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 are increased with effect from 27 October.

The rate of Interest Relief Grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow an interest-free period is being increased from 13 per cent to 13½ per cent for each interest-free year.

The 'concessionary' rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects (Category A) is increased from 10 per cent to 10½ per cent while the 'broadly commercial' rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects not providing additional employment (Category B) is increased from 13 per cent to 13½ per cent.

COI Cambridge office moves

The Eastern Regional Office of the Central Office of Information has moved into new accommodation in Cambridge at 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1LL. The telephone number remains Cambridge (0223) 58911.

The Cambridge office covers the six counties of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Price Commission Quarterly Report suggests rate of inflation may be falling

Indications that the underlying rate of inflation may now be falling are a welcome feature in the Price Commission's Quarterly Report* to Parliament for June to August, which was published on 23 October.

But the Commission warn that the full effect of the rise in pay settlements in the spring and summer has not yet been fully reflected in prices. Because of this, and because of the effect of the depreciation in sterling on import costs, the country will still have to face a period this winter when price increases will continue at a worrying high level. But the lower level of pay settlements under the Government's new policy will produce a real improvement which should be clearly apparent by the spring.

During the three months covered by the report:

the retail price index increased by 3.6 per cent bringing the increase for the 12 months to August 1975 to 26.9 per cent;
the wholesale price index rose by 3.4 per cent bringing the increase for the 12 months to 24.1 per cent;
the Commission's own index, based on price notifications received, rose by 4.7 per cent bringing the 12-month increase up to 20.9 per cent.

Looking at industry's costs over the three months and the 12 months to August 1975, the report shows that:

wage rates increased by 4.9 per cent bringing the 12-month increase to 27.1 per cent;
material and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 6.5 per cent bringing the 12-month increase to 12.7 per cent (for the food manufacturing industry the increases were 11.4 per cent and 21.5 per cent, respectively);
the Commission's own index of world commodity prices showed a rise of 15.2 per cent in the three months but a fall of 12.6 per cent in the 12 months to August 1975.

The rise of 4.7 per cent in the Commission's index based on price notifications for the three months (June to August) is perhaps more representative than previous report figures of 2.5 per cent (March to May) and 7½ per cent (December to February), both of which were affected by the 'bunching' of price increases in the earlier period. The increase from 2.5 per cent to 4.7 per cent does not indicate an acceleration in the rate of inflation.

On the contrary, the retail price index and the wholseale price index on a three-month moving average basis after a peak in April have been falling, providing some evidence, that the rate of inflation may be slowing down.

While encouragement can be taken from these figures, the report says there are two adverse factors which must be faced. First, the full effect of the very large increase in labour costs during the spring and summer has not yet been fully reflected in prices. Continuing price increases from this source are expected for some time to come. Second, the sharp rise in costs of materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry must cause real concern. In considerable measure, this is due to the depreciation in the value of sterling which itself is a reflection of the rate of inflation in this country over the last 12 months.

The report says: 'What is now happening is that we are having to pay through our import bill – and ultimately in prices in the shops – for the excessive pay settlements of the past. There is no escape from this. For both these reasons we shall have to live through a period this winter when price increases will continue at a worryingly high level. But the much lower level of pay settlements under the Government's new policy will have an increasingly beneficial effect. We should expect to be able to discern an improvement in the underlying trend in a matter of months; but it may well be the spring before the rate of price increase – particularly if measured on the basis of a 12-month comparison – has come down sufficiently for this to be apparent to the public at large.'

The Commission's previous report referred to the fact that the nationalised industries accounted for a disproportionate share of total price increases. In the latest period of three months to 31 August the proportion of Category I and II price increases accounted for by the nationalised industries was 54 per cent, compared with 32 per cent in the six months to May 1975.

The Commission make the point that the period of three months may not be representative, particularly when prices were being increased to catch up on past cost increases to eliminate or reduce deficits. If one looks at the whole period of control from April 1973 to iron out fluctuations from one period to another, the nationalised industries accounted for 13 per cent of total Category I and II price increases up to May 1974; by the end of May 1975 this figure had grown to 19 per cent; it is now 23 per cent.

The rate at which nationalised industry prices are going up significantly exceeds that of the private sector. The report explains the part played by the nationalised industry deficits and makes the point that the emergence and the subsequent elimination of deficits affects the time at which price increases are made but not the aggregate amount of the price increases.

The report states: 'The explanation of the current level of nationalised industry prices must therefore be sought in the level of nationalised industry costs'. It concludes: 'Once the deficits representing past cost increases have been dealt with, the urgent necessity is that increases in costs in the public sector industries should now be restrained within the limits required to keep increases in prices within tolerable limits.'

Section 3 of the report reviews the Commission's work in the three months in administering the Price Code. The number of notifications rose compared with the previous three months. For Category I companies, the figure is somewhat above the long-term average, reflecting the receipt of a considerable number of investment relief cases.

Amounts notified for Category I cases have also increased; this is largely a reflection of the nationalised industry price increases notified. Category II companies on the other hand, both in numbers notified and in amounts, are well below the long-term average. Some results of this aspect of the Commission's work are as follows:

A total of 307 notifications were modified, rejected or withdrawn reducing price increases by £108 million a year.
Price reductions or the absorbing of costs by larger enterprises which had exceeded their reference levels amounted to about £4.4 million.
Its regional staff secured 308 general price reductions from smaller firms which had exceeded their reference levels, saving the consumer about £3.5 million.

The report comments that overall there has been no significant recovery in profit margins. This is not surprising in view of the pressure of costs and the level of output.

The report reviews the progress of the Commission's work under references made to it.

Under the fresh food reference, the Commission's monitoring of fresh food prices showed that the general level of fresh food prices in mid-August was little different from that in mid-May (0.3 per cent lower), though the index showed an increase of 26.5 per cent over the 12 months to mid-August. This small movement in the index in the last three months conceals some large fluctuations in the average prices of commodities such as eggs, fruit, potatoes and other vegetables and divergent movements in other food prices.

Along with its monitoring of fresh food prices, at the request of the Secretary of State, the Commission gave special consideration to prices and margins of potatoes.

The report shows that in the period from 10 June to 10 July 1975, when potato prices increased from 10.7p a lb. to the exceptionally high level of 13.4p a lb., retailers passed to the consumer the full increase in wholesale cash terms, but no more. Correspondingly, when prices fell at the end of July, retailers reduced prices proportionately less than wholesale prices and so succeeded in restoring percentage gross margins. Looking at the period from January to July 1975 the Commission similarly found that retailers tend to make rather better percentage gross margins when prices are low and lower percentage gross margins when prices are high. Later information for September confirmed this view.

The Commission's regional office and the headquarters Information Centre received a total of 13,600 inquiries and complaints, a fall on the figures in previous periods. Complaints from the public included increases in the cost of household domestic appliances, television rental contracts, the price of chips, and increases in electricity and telephone charges and water rates. As a result of regional officer's investigations into complaints, some 274 individual price reductions were secured from the firms concerned.

* Price Commission: Report for the period 1 June to 31 August 1975 (HC 631, HMSO, £1.10).

Parliament

Monday, 20 October

Imports from Taiwan

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would make a statement concerning the import restrictions imposed on certain goods from Taiwan recently, and the effect these restrictions had on those exporters who had letters of irrevocable credit and were affected by the sudden use of restrictions,

In answer, Mr. Shore said that the restrictions were imposed on a Community-wide basis to protect the Community textile industries against increasing imports of cheap textiles from Taiwan. The effect on holders of Irrevocable Letters of Credit had varied according to circumstances. Import licences were being issued for goods in transit on or before 30 September 1975 and in respect of which Irrevocable Letters of Credit were opened before 8 August 1975. Representations had been made on other goods covered by Letters of Credit and he was yet to reach a final decision on these. Goods for re-export to non-EEC countries can be licensed outside the import quotas.

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Lord Beswick
Gregor MacKenzie
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Gerald Kaufman

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection:
Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Woollen textile imports

Mr. Kenneth Lomas (Huddersfield West) wanted to know what was the volume and value of woollen textile goods imported from Eastern Europe and also from Korea and Taiwan in the last 12 months.

Mr. Deakins gave the information for the 12 months ending August 1975:

	Woollen textile fabrics (1)		Woven and knitted woollen garments (2)	
	Thousand m²	£'000 cif	Thousand lb	£'000 cif
Eastern Europe (including Soviet Union)	467	352	1,600	4,329
Republic of Korea	85	162	68	218
North Korea	—	—	—	—
Taiwan	—	—	13	22

(1) Covers SITC(R) headings 653.21, 653.22 and parts of 653.7.
(2) Covers selected headings from SITC(R) 841.11, .12, .42, and .44 that are identifiable as being made from wool.

Concorde fares

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he supported British Airways' contention that the Concorde fares should be no more than 18 per cent above the first class fares, and if he had made this view known to IATA.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'British Airways' and Air France's proposals for the Concorde fares they consider appropriate have to be approved first by IATA and then by the respective governments. My Rt. Hon. Friend is keeping closely in touch with British Airways.'

Advertising 'direct flights'

Mr. Terence L. Higgins (Worthing) inquired if the Secretary of State for Trade, would take steps to prevent international airlines from advertising flights, marketed in the United Kingdom, as direct flights when they are not non-stop but planned to diverge from a direct course and stop at other airports en route.

Responding, Mr. Deakins stated that the word 'direct' was commonly used by airlines to identify services which did not involve a change of aircraft. If nevertheless a particular advertisement appeared to be misleading, the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 might apply, or the matter could be referrred to the Advertising Standards Authority.

Representations on VAT

Mr. Jeremy Thorpe (North Devon) inquired what representations the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection had received from the general public regarding recent changes in VAT on certain goods.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'I have received a number of observations (mostly from bodies representing consumers) on the effect of VAT changes on the cost of servicing domestic electrical equipment and on television rental charges.'

Price survey grants

Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, how many applications had been received for grants from local authorities wishing to establish pre-shopping information services; what was the total value of the grants applied for; and how this compared with the sum made available.

Mr. Williams, answering, said that 128 applications (of which 106 are from local authorities) in respect of 460 local price survey schemes had been received for grants totalling £511,500 per annum. A number of these were still provisional and a few overlap.

The expenditure on these grants – sufficient to cover around 300 schemes – would total some £400,000 in the current and the next financial year. A supplementary estimate would be presented in due course for the expenditure in 1975/76; in the meantime, recourse would be had to the Contingencies Fund.

Departmental expenditure and staffing

Mr. Michael Latham (Melton) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what was the total annual cost of her Department, including salaries and administrative overheads, and what were the equivalent figures on 1 July 1974, 1 January 1975 and 1 July 1975.

Mrs. Williams said: 'Expenditure by my Department, excluding the Metrication Board, the Monopolies' and Mergers Commission, the Price Commission and the Office of Fair Trading, on salaries and general administrative expenses was £1.46 million in 1974–75 and is estimated to be £1.6 million in 1975–76; to these figures should be added approximately £0.7 million and £0.8 million respectively, for supporting services borne on the Votes of other Departments.'

Mr. Latham (Melton) also wanted to know what was the current staffing establishment of the Department; and what were the equivalent figures on 1 July 1974, 1 January 1975 and 1 July 1975.

Mrs. Williams told him that the present authorised establishment for her Department was 326. This total showed no change from that at 1 January 1975 and 1 July 1974. At 1 July 1974 the total had been provisionally set at 265. The figures excluded the staffs of the

Metrication Board, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Office of Fair Trading and the Price Commission.

Telephone charges

Mr. Terence L. Higgins asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, whether it was Government policy that nationalised industries should benefit from increased revenue when they became less efficient, and if she would refer to the Director General of Fair Trading and Competition the Post Office practice of charging consumers more for telephone calls which could be shown to have had to be made through an operator because of the breakdown of STD facilities.

Mr. Maclennan replied that the answer to both parts of the question was No. The Post Office Users' National Council was at present looking into the question of operator connected calls and, he understood, were considering the particular issue raised.

Origin marking

Mr. Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether she has yet considered her policy on origin marking.

In reply, Mr. Williams said it was an offence under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 to give a false or misleading indication of the place of manufacture of goods, and the 1972 Act required origin marking for all imported goods to which a United Kingdom name or mark was applied. Domestic manufacturers were also free to mark their goods to show that they were made in Britain, and many did so. This should adequately protect consumers against misleading indications of origin on imported goods.

Common ownership

Mr. George Rodgers (Chorley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, if he would meet representatives of the Common Ownership Movement to discuss extending common ownership enterprises in areas of high unemployment.

Mr. Kaufman replied that he was ready to consider any proposals which might contribute to alleviating the situation in areas of high unemployment.

Industry Act assistance

Mr. Tom King (Bridgwater) wanted to know the latest level of expenditure already made and promised under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'As at 1 October 1975, offers of assistance to projects paid or outstanding under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 amounted to £32 million. In addition, guarantees were in force with a maximum contingent liability of £120 million.

'Expenditure under the Wool Textile Industry Scheme amounted to £4.8 million. No expenditure has so far been incurred under the other industry schemes announced recently. In addition, the Government has promised further assistance to Alfred Herbert and British Leyland, though no commitments have been entered into.'

Paper imports

Mr. John Ovenden (Gravesend) inquired of the Secretary of State for Industry what instructions he had given to his officials who were currently involved in negotiations over the level of paper imports, and if he would make a statement of Government policy on that issue.

Replying, Mr. Kaufman said: 'Officials are currently engaged in discussions with our former EFTA partners mainly concerned about the level of duty-free imports of paper and board from these countries in 1976. Earlier agreements preclude any reduction in the quotas established in 1975. In considering any increase, however, we are bound to attach great weight to the present depressed state of the United Kingdom industry; though we cannot disregard, in respect of particular categories, the interests of paper and board users may of whom are also subjected to international competition in respect of the final product.'

Sperm whale products

Mr. Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what discussions his Department were having with trade organisations on the question of finding substitutes for the products of sperm whales, and what progress was being made in those discussions.

Answered Mr. Kaufman: 'Officials have had discussions recently with trade and research associations. These discussions will continue as necessary. Research into substitutes already being undertaken by research bodies and individual companies may be supplemented as a result of these discussions.'

Concorde production

Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make further statements on Concorde production and the aircraft.

Mr. Varley said that the authorised production programme of 16 Concordes was continuing as planned. Aircraft 205 and 206 were to make their first flights in the near future, and would be delivered to Air France and British Airways in time for these airlines to start commercial services on 21 January 1976.

Use of British-made cloth

Mr. Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make provisions designed to ensure that the clothing industry would use British-made cloth following modernisation, under the provisions recently announced.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'No, Sir. To require clothing firms assisted under the scheme to use only British cloth would be an unreasonable interference in their commercial activities. The Government do, of course, favour the use of British cloth wherever possible, but my Rt. Hon. Friend considered that it would not be appropriate to make this a condition of assistance.'

EEC Regional Development Fund

Mr. Peter Blaker (Blackpool South) wanted to know if the Secretary of State for Industry was satisfied with the operation of the Regional Development Fund of the EEC.

Replying, Mr, MacKenzie said: 'Yes, Sir. UK applications worth some £9 million from the Fund have already been approved.'

Scottish industry

Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would list his remaining functions in respect of the development of industry in Scotland.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'My. Rt. Hon. Friend retains responsibility in Great Britain for general and sectoral industrial policy, industrial research and development, and certain aspects of regional industrial policy, as well as statutory responsibility for the British Steel Corporation, the Post Office and, once it is established, the National Enterprise Board. In carrying out these responsibilities as they affect Scotland, he will continue to consult my Rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Scotland.'

Government-owned shipbuilders

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked what had been the total losses incurred by each of Govan Shipbuilders, Cammell Laird and Harland and Wolff since they came into public ownership, and what was the estimate of the total losses likely to be incurred in the present year by the three concerns together.

Mr. Varley said: 'The aggregated losses of Govan Shipbuilders Ltd. from July 1972 to December 1974 have amounted to £8.6 million. Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd. became 50 per cent Government-owned on 10 June 1970 and up to the end of 1974 had made no losses. The audited accounts for these companies for 1975 will not be available until some months after the close of their financial years, which end in December 1975.'

He added that responsibility for Harland and Wolff was with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Regional development

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would make a further statement on regional development.

In answer, Mr. MacKenzie said: 'As announced last year, we intend to continue and develop the existing system of regional financial incentives. When the National Enterprise Board, the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies and the Planning Agreements system come into operation we shall be able to do still more to help the less prosperous areas.'

Special steels industry investment

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) inquired what action was envisaged by the Government to ensure adequate flow of investment funds into the special steels industry.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend is always prepared to use the powers available to him under the Industry Act 1972 to help desirable investment in the special steels industry in Sheffield and the Department will study carefully any schemes submitted.'

Aiding unprofitable industries

Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester) asked the Secretary of State for Industry how much money his Department had spent since 28 February 1974, with the express purpose of aiding financially unprofitable industries.

'None, Sir,' replied Mr. Varley.

Funds for civil aircraft

Mr. Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) wanted to know which civil aircraft projects were now being supported with public funds.

In answer, Mr. Varley said that the Government was at present investing money

in the Short's SD 3-30, was supporting a small programme of work at HSA to ensure that the option of restarting the HS146 project was kept open and, jointly with the French Government, was financing the development and production of the Concorde supersonic aircraft.

Textile firms' closing down grants

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked if the period allowed under the Wool Textile Scheme regulations in which firms may be entitled to a closing-down grant would be extended.

The Wool Textile ECD was currently examining the progress of the Wool Textile Scheme and the desirability of extending it, replied Mr. Kaufman. The EDC would put its recommendations to the Department when it had completed its review later in the month.

European regional aid

Mr. W. W. Hamilton (Central Fife) wanted to know what progress had been made towards the development of a European regional aid policy more attuned to the needs of the United Kingdom.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'As the White Paper on Membership of the European Community indicated, new principles have been agreed for the co-ordination of regional aids within the Community which will allow the UK to continue to take effective measures adjusted to the particular needs of our regions. The European Regional Development Fund will contribute to the cost of these.'

Industry Bill representations

Mr. Peter Viggers (Gosport) inquired what representations the Secretary of State for Industry had had from people working in industry on the Industry Bill.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'As my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State informed the House on 14 July, representations have been made by the TUC and CBI at meetings with the Prime Minister and my Rt. Hon. Friend. In addition, we have received representations from a number of City Institutions and other bodies and from individuals on both sides of industry. Since publication of the Discussion Document on the Contents of a Planning Agreement on 7 August, over 19,000 copies have been distributed by my Department, on which we are continuing to receive comments.'

British Leyland

Mr. Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) and Mr. Sydney Bidwell (Ealing, Southall) both requested information on progress with British Leyland affairs following the Ryder Report.

Mr. Varley, in answer, said: 'The Scheme of Arrangement became effective on 11 August. Following the Government's offer to shareholders and the subsequent rights issue, the equity base of British Leyland Ltd. has now been enlarged by £200 million and the Government has acquired a 95 per cent shareholding. Sir Ronald Edwards, as Chairman, and four non-executive directors joined the new Board with effect from 3 October. Meantime the company set up its new organisation and has been pressing ahead with discussions with representatives of its workforce and with measures to improve performances on lines recommended in the Report.'

Mr. Richard Wainwright wanted to know when the next tranche of public finance was to be made available to British Leyland.

In response, Mr. Kaufman said that the Ryder report had proposed that there should be a review point in mid-1976 to precede the first tranche of loan finance. The details would be determined in the light of British Leyland's capital requirements nearer the time.

Yorkshire and Humberside shipbuilding

Mr. John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked if steps would be taken to help the shipbuilding industry in the Yorkshire and Humberside region by providing financial aid comparable to that being received in the North of England and Scotland.

Any shipbuilding company in an Assisted Area could apply for selective financial assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972, answered Mr. Kaufman. But in considering such applications regard was paid to long-term employment benefits.

Industrial problems

Mr. Eric Moonman (Basildon) inquired when the Secretary of State for Industry last discussed industrial problems with the CBI and the BIM, and with what results.

'I met the CBI at the NEDC meeting on 6 October when problems facing industry were discussed,' replied Mr. Varley. 'The BIM have not proposed any discussion on this subject to me.'

Sea Horse marine engine

Mr. Frederick Willey (Sunderland North) wanted to know whether further financial support would be provided to enable the testing of the Sea Horse marine engine to continue.

In reply, Mr. Kaufman said that, following the completion of trials covered by a contract ending on 11 April, Doxford Hawthorn Research Services Ltd. were offered a further contract on similar terms which had not been taken up. Discussions with the company were proceeding.

Telecommunications industry redundancies

Mr. Harry Gourlay (Kirkcaldy) asked what representations the Secretary of State for Industry had received from MPs and officials of the trade unions on the impending 5,000 redundancies in the telecommunications industry and what consultations he had had with the Chairman of the Post Office.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'I have had discussions with Hon. Members, trades union leaders and with the Chairman of the Post Office. The manufacturers had previously been given an indication of the lower limit of ordering they might have to face in the next two years. The Post Office has now told them of the programme it considers they should plan on for four years ahead. This is higher than the lower limit, particularly as regards orders for Strowger and crossbar equipment to be placed next year. But in view of the capacity available to the Post Office and the run down in demand for exchange apparatus fairly substantial redundancies are inevitable.'

Consultation with Post Office

Mr. Peter Hardy (Rother Valley) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry was satisfied with the present arrangements for consultation between the Post Office and himself.

'I keep in close contact with the Chairman, whom I last met on 3 October,' replied Mr. MacKenzie, 'and my Departmental colleagues and officials are in day-to-day contact with members and officials of the Post Office.'

Industry for central Lancashire

Mr. Stan Thorne (Preston South) inquired what plans existed within the Department of Industry to develop new industrial undertakings in the central Lancashire area, and whether such plans would now be published.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'My Department seeks to encourage new industrial investment in the central Lancashire area in accordance with its Intermediate Area status. In addition, it will be one of the tasks of the National Enterprise Board to set up, or promote the setting up of, new industrial undertakings in areas where jobs are needed. The Board is to have an office in the north west region and this will help it to assess the needs and opportunities in the region, but no specific plans exist at this stage.'

Concorde noise levels

Dr. Alan Glyn (Windsor and Maidenhead) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what action he proposed to take in view of the recently published figures relating to the noise level at take-off and landing of the Concorde at London Airport.

Mr. Shore gave the following information: 'Following interdepartmental discussion, my Rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Industry, is arranging as a matter of urgency for the manufacturers to study the results of the recent endurance flight trials to see if there is any possibility of further reductions in noise levels being achieved by modifications to operational procedures.'

Nation Life

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton (Edinburgh West) inquired if the Department of Trade would consider restricting its audit fee in the Nation Life liquidation proceedings as much as possible.

Mr. Shore answered: 'There are no grounds, on present information, for waiving the audit fees which are prescribed under the appropriate Fees Order. We are, however, keeping the matter under review.'

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton also asked what was the expected date for the conclusion of the liquidation and the date for the final distribution of Nation Life.

To this question Mr. Shore gave the following information: 'An interim distribution of 41.5p in the £ is expected to be paid on 30 October 1975. The liquidator is doing all he can to complete realisations of the assets and to hasten further distributions but he cannot at present say when he will be in a position to make a further payment and to conclude the liquidation.'

EEC monies for NCB

Mr. George Grant (Morpeth) asked the Secretary of

State for Energy what monies the National Coal Board had received from EEC sources in grants and loans with reduced interest charges since Great Britain's entry into the Community and for what purposes.

The following information was given by Mr. Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy: Total monies received by the Board up to 30 September 1975 were as follows:

Loans at favourable rates of interest for plant, machinery and colliery modernisation – £77.874 million
Low interest loans for improvements to miners' houses – £1.636 million
Grants for research – £2.168 million
Grants to assist redeployment and training of redundant mineworkers – £2.0 million.

Further loans and grants had been approved but the Board had not yet received them.

In addition £2.25 million had been received by the Government towards the costs of the Redundant Mineworkers Payments Scheme.

NCB manpower and output

Mr. George Grant wanted to know what was the present total manpower employed by the National Coal Board, and what was the figure in the same month in 1974. He also asked what was the present output per manshift in the coalmining industry at the face and overall at the latest available date, and what were the figures in the same month in 1974.

Mr. Eadie replied: 'Details of manpower and productivity at NCB mines are published regularly in Table 6 of *Energy Trends*, available in the Library of the House. The latest information, which will be published in the October issue, is as follows:'

Week ending	Number of wage-earners on colliery books (thousands)	Average output per manshift (1) (cwts)	
		At the face	Overall
28 Sept. 1974	246	153.00	44.26
27 Sept. 1975	248	147.92	42.85

(1) Excludes capital working and tip coal.

Opencast mine sites

Mr. Grant inquired how many opencast sites had been authorised during 1975; what were the locations, and what was the expected total yield from each site.

In response, Mr. Eadie gave the following details:

SITES AUTHORISED IN 1975

Site	Location (district, county)	Date authorised	Total estimated yield (tons)
Waunlwyd North	Brecknock, Powys	30 Jan. 1975	30,000
Waverley	Rotherham, South Yorkshire	5 Feb. 1975	135,000
Pugneys (revised)	Wakefield, West Yorkshire	19 Feb. 1975	445,000
Ty-Cerrig Extension	Wrexham Maelor, Clwyd	11 Apr. 1975	90,000
St. Andrew	Tynedale, Northumberland	9 May 1975	750,000
Bryn Pica Extension South	Cynan Valley, Mid-Glamorgan	19 May 1975	556,000
Woodmuir	Lanark, Strathclyde (Region)	29 May 1975	500,000
Great Mountain Colliery	Llanelli, Dyfed	30 May 1975	100,000
Stone Row	Sheffield, South Yorkshire	26 Jun. 1975	115,000
Waterhead	Dunfermline, Fife (Region)	23 Jul. 1975	130,000
Trecatty	Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney Valley } Mid-Glamorgan	30 Jul. 1975	100,000
Mitchesons Gill	Gateshead, Tyne and Wear	8 Aug. 1975	185,000
Wrang Farm Extension	North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire	12 Aug. 1975	100,000
Low Close Extension	Allerdale, Cumbria	29 Aug. 1975	500,000
Esh Winning	Derwentside, Durham	13 Oct. 1975	350,000
Ramcroft	Bolsover, Derbyshire	13 Oct. 1975	100,000
Total number: 16			
Approved, and formal authorisation will be issued shortly:			
Butterwell	Morpeth, Northumberland	—	12,000,000

Coal stocks and imports

Mr. Grant requested details of the present stocks of coal distributed and undistributed, and the comparable figures in 1974.

Details of stocks of coal in Great Britain were published regularly in Table 8 of *Energy Trends*, advised Mr. Eadie. The latest information, which would be published in the October issue of *Energy Trends*, was as follows:

Thousand tons

Week ending	Distributed (1)	Undistributed
28 Sept. 1974	15,130	6,403
27 Sept. 1975	20,173	8,185

(1) Excluding stocks held in merchants' yards mainly for the domestic market, and stocks held by the industrial sector.

Mr. Grant also asked what amount of coal had been imported this year, at what price, and from which countries.

In answer, Mr. Eadie gave the following information on the quantities and average cif values of coal imported during the period January to August 1975 by countries of origin:

Country	Quantity ('000 tonnes)	Unit cif value (£/tonne)
EEC	69.9	29.31
West Germany	21.3	40.28
Netherlands	16.4	30.73
Poland	39.2	14.36
South Africa	12.3	29.35
Australia	1,625.0	16.78
USA	1,382.1	24.62
Other countries	245.1	16.92

The above figures are published monthly in Section 321 Table III of the *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom.*

Tuesday, 21 October

British and Leyland

Mr. George Rodgers (Chorley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what consultations took place with the Department of Industry before the decision to drop the word 'British' from BLMC was taken, and if he would ensure that 'Leyland' was not removed from the title.

Replying, Mr. Kaufman said that the holding company was now called British Leyland Ltd. It comprised four separate business groups: Leyland Cars, Leyland Truck and Bus, Leyland International and Leyland Special Products. These were decisions taken by the company.

Government-sponsored industries in shadow factories

Mr. George Rodgers inquired if the Secretary of State for Industry would take steps to establish Government-sponsored industries in shadow factories that were at present unoccupied.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'My Department makes every effort, with the aid of the various regional incentives, to find buyers or tenants for vacant factories in the assisted areas. In addition one of the tasks of the National Enterprise Board, when established, will be to set up, or promote the setting up of, new industrial undertakings in areas where jobs are needed.'

'The Contents of a Planning Agreement'

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would indicate how many Category I and Category II firms, respectively, had forwarded comment to his Department on the discussion document entitled 'The Contents of a Planning Agreement', and how many companies in each category had indicated a willingness or unwillingness to have such an agreement with Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Kaufman answered that so far the Government had received 18 comments in writing, including comments from representative bodies and six Category I companies in the private sector. Additionally a number of other companies and individuals had commented in other ways. More comments were expected. In general the views expressed had been about the system and its implementation rather than about willingness to participate.

State-owned industries in Wales

Mr. Gwynfor Evans (Carmarthen) wanted to know how many State-owned industries had been set up in Wales between 1973 and 1975, where they were located, and how many men and women they employed.

No new state-owned industries as such within the area of his Department's responsibilities had been set up in Wales between 1973 and 1975, replied Mr. Kaufman.

Manufacturing firms' capital expenditure

Mr. Gwynfor Evans inquired how much capital expenditure there had been by manufacturing establishments in Wales and England, respectively, in 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'In 1972 capital expenditure by manufacturing establishments in Wales was £184 million and in England £1,570 million. Later figures are not available at this stage. Net transactions in land and existing buildings are included and, chiefly for this reason, the figures are not directly comparable with those published regularly for the United Kingdom as a whole.'

Drypool Shipbuilding Co.

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, whether his Department were approached for aid by the Drypool Shipbuilding Co.; and what proposals were made by his Department.

In reply, Mr. Kaufman said: 'The Drypool Group Ltd. sought financial assistance under the Industry Act 1972 but my Rt. Hon. Friend was not able to agree. The owners of ships under construction by Drypool then

tried to mount a rescue operation and sought the Department's help. Although my Rt. Hon. Friend met most of their requests they decided not to go ahead. A Receiver was appointed and his report is being considered urgently.'

Marathon Shipbuilding

Mr. Neville Trotter wanted to know what was the extent of the financial assistance being given by the Government to Marathon Shipbuilding by way of loans and otherwise, and to what extent the terms of the assistance had been revised.

'As announced to the House on 22 May 1972,' replied Mr. Kaufman, 'Marathon Shipbuilding Co. (UK) Ltd. was offered, and accepted, a loan under Section 4 of the Local Employment Act, 1972, amounting to £6 million. This loan was interest free for three years and then at 6 per cent. In addition, the company could apply for the statutory regional and shipbuilding grants for which it becomes eligible.

'Subsequently, in December 1974 (under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972), £2 million of the loan element of this package was converted into non-cumulative preference shares and the capital and interest repayments on the remainder of the loan (ie £4 million) were deferred for one year.'

Concorde costs, sales and operating subsidy

Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry) asked what was the estimated difference between the production costs of Concorde and the price received from sales to British Airways and Air France.

Based on the average cost of aircraft in the 16 aircraft programme, replied Mr. Kaufman, the short fall in sterling terms in total payments by British Airways and Air France was estimated at about £7 million per aircraft (assuming £1 sterling = 9.3 French francs).

Mr. Biffen also wanted to know what was the estimated operating subsidy necessary to enable Concorde to be flown on the basis of first-class rates plus 10 per cent and plus 20 per cent, respectively.

Mr. Kaufman said that the amount of subsidy required, if any, would depend mainly upon the purchase price, operating costs and receipts, route patterns and the general financial position of the individual airline.

Japan and the motor industry

Mr. Alf Bates (Bebbington and Ellesmere Port) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what discussions he had had on the problems facing the British motor car industry on his recent visit to Japan.

In answer, Mr. Shore said: 'I indicated both to the Japanese Government and to their industry that, in the British Government's view, the rapid build up this year in Japanese car exports to the United Kingdom was unacceptable. For their part, the Japanese Government predicted that during the remainder of this year their exports of cars to the United Kingdom would decline, and acknowledged that Japanese cars should be exported to the UK in an orderly way during 1976. I shall continue to keep a careful watch on the situation.'

Directors' ages and service agreements

Mr. J. W. Rooker inquired if legislation would be introduced limiting the maximum age of company directors to the age at which they became eligible to receive the statutory retirement pension.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'I shall be considering in the course of my Department's review of company law whether the existing provisions regarding the retirement of directors are still adequate; but I do not think that the particular measure suggested would be appropriate.'

Would legislation be introduced to require disclosure of the details of service agreements of directors in the annual reports of public companies, Mr. Rooker inquired.

'I will examine the suggestion made by my Hon. Friend in my consideration of the question of disclosure generally in the course of my Department's review of company law,' answered Mr. Clinton Davis.

Wednesday 22 October

Food subsidies and the Green Pound

Mr. George Rodgers asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to what extent the value of food subsidies would be diminished as a consequence of the devaluing of the Green Pound.

'The devaluation of the Green Pound will have an effect on the calculation of the FEOGA contribution to the UK butter subsidy,' replied Mr. Maclennan. 'The implications of this are being considered but for the present the rate of subsidy remains unchanged. The value of the other food subsidies is not diminished.'

Wool textile imports from East Europe

Mr. Kenneth Lomas (Huddersfield West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would introduce import controls on woollen textile goods coming from Eastern European countries.

Mr. Shore replied: 'There are already quotas on a wide range of woollen textiles and garments from Eastern Europe. Those fixed for 1974 were on average some 17 per cent larger than for 1973, while the increase between 1974 and this year has been kept to an average of about 4 per cent. Quotas for 1976 have yet to be decided. A general extension of the restrictions on a unilateral basis would raise problems for our trade relations with these countries. Some woollen garments, eg, suits and other woven made-ups mainly of wool, are not restricted at present, although like any other goods they would, if dumped, be covered by the usual anti-dumping rules.

'As in the case of restrictions imposed on textiles from Far East countries, the existing restrictions on the main Eastern European suppliers will be replaced by restrictions negotiated by the Community under the GATT Multi-Fibre Arrangement and in the process some widening of coverage is envisaged.'

Concorde noise in Richmond area

Sir Anthony Royle (Richmond) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he had received from residents in the Richmond constituency at the increase in aircraft noise occasioned by the landing of Concorde, and if he would make a statement on the action he is taking.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that Concorde's recent endurance flying programme had prompted 383 complaints from the Richmond constituency. With regard to the second part of the Question, he referred the Member to the replies given on 15 October and on 21 October.

R and D on fuel and power

Mr. Arthur Palmer (Bristol, North East) asked the Secretary of State for Energy whether he had decided to make any change in the terms of reference of the Advisory Council for Research and Development for Fuel and Power.

'Yes,' said Mr. Eadie. 'The revised terms of reference will be: To advise the Secretary of State on the general programme of research and development of the nationalised energy industries; and to advise on such other matters in the field of energy research and development as the Secretary of State may refer to it.

'This revision is without prejudice to the Government's consideration of the recommendations of the Select Committee on Science and Technology, in their report on energy conservation, for the setting up of new machinery for the development of a research and development programme aimed at energy saving, fuel substitution and new sources of energy. The Government will be making a formal reply to the report in due course.'

UK firms' subsidies

Mrs. Ann Taylor (Bolton West) asked how many subsidiaries were controlled by, respectively, the largest five, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 UK companies.

Responding, Mr. MacKenzie said that on the basis of the ordering by size of turnover of UK industrial companies given in *The Times 1000 1974-75*, and using *Who Owns Whom 1975-76* to obtain the number of their subsidiary companies, the figures were as follows:

Number of largest companies	Estimated number of subsidiaries (hundreds)
5	1,000
10	2,500
20	5,400
50	11,300
100	18,300
200	25,700

Fishing vessel regulations

Mr. Neville Trotter asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would delay for two years the application of the new safety regulations to older fishing vessels, having regard to the evidence of adverse effects which was now apparent since the regulations came into force.

'No, Sir,' replied Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Bearing in mind the risks involved to men employed in the fishing industry and the six years phasing in period for surveys, my Rt. Hon. Friend is convinced that implementation of the safety rules and surveys should not be deferred. Some of the older vessels represent

the most urgent need and are therefore being dealt with first.'

State aid for industry

Mrs. Ann Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Industry when he proposes to publish the first of the regular quarterly lists of payments of RDCS, and offers of selective financial assistance to individual firms and establishments, which on 31 January 1975 he announced he would publish.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that lists of offers of selective financial assistance to individual firms had appeared in *Trade and Industry* for 25 April, 27 June and 17 October. Lists of payments of Regional Development Grants were published in *Trade and Industry* for 5 and 19 September.

Mrs. Taylor also wanted to know if the Secretary of State for Industry would publish a table of the level of State aid to industry for each year since 1960, showing loans and grants separately for, respectively, investment grants, local employment acts and initial tax allowances. Regional Employment Premium, Selective Employment Premium, export rebates, export credit guarantees, military aircraft and missiles R and D, civil aircraft and other R and D, IRC and shipbuilding reconstruction and mergers, industrial training, and agriculture fisheries and forestry.

In response, Mr. MacKenzie gave the following available information:

BTA and the National Exhibition Centre

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) inquired if the Secretary of State for Trade was satisfied that the British Tourist Authority was adequately promoting the National Exhibition Centre.

'Yes,' said Mr. Deakins. 'In addition to promoting the Centre overseas, the BTA is co-operating very successfully with Birmingham City Council to encourage organisations in this country to persuade their parent international body to hold its conferences and exhibitions in Birmingham.'

Thursday, 23 October

Furniture imports

Mr. Ronald Brown (Hackney South and Shoreditch) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what steps he proposed to take to control the import of furniture from East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Indonesia at prices that undermined the fair wages and working conditions of the furniture workers in Great Britain.

'Imports from these sources represent only a small proportion of our total imports of furniture,' replied Mr. Deakins. 'However, I am always prepared to consider applications for action under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 where there is *prima facie* evidence that injury is being caused by dumped or subsidised imports.'

East Anglian fishing vessel accidents

Mr. Paul Channon (Southend West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, from what ports the fishing vessels from East Anglian ports came, which were specified in his answer to the Hon. Member for Southend West on 13 October and in which there were fatal accidents in 1967 and 1969; if he will specify how far from shore these fatal accidents occurred; and if he will publish in the Official Report a copy of any accident reports that may have been compiled.

In response, Mr. Clinton Davis gave the following table which sets out the information required. Coroners' inquests were held but no accident reports were available.

Year	No. killed	Port of Registry of fishing vessel	Distance from shore of accident
1967	1	Lowestoft	In Fleetwood Harbour. Engineer caught in machinery
1969	2	Lowestoft	Under five miles. Vessel lost on Caister Bank. Two crew drowned

Heathrow noise levels

Mr. Toby Jessel (Twickenham) wanted to know what was the purpose of the 110 PNdB aircraft noise limit at Heathrow Airport.

Mr. Clinton Davis said the purpose was to set a limit, having regard to the capabilities of aircraft, on the noise of individual flights

All figures are at historic prices and net of repayment except where otherwise stated in the notes — £ million

Item	Sub-division (where applicable)	Years 1960/1961	1961/1962	1962/1963	1963/1964	1964/1965	1965/1966	1966/1967	1967/1968	1968/1969	1969/1970	1970/1971	1971/1972	1972/1973	1973/1974	1974/1975
1 Investment grants		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	288	437	544	540	461	295	191	101
2 Local Employment Acts		8	28	21	18	26	18	35	35	34	43	51	41	47	35	18
3 Regional Employment Premium		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	96	102	102	103	94	100	144
4 ECGD	Cost of fixed interest rate scheme															
	Net amount of new	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16.2	76.6	157.7
	Refinancing loans to banks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	293.5	372.2	446.7
5 Military aerospace R and D		151	171	182	177	172	187	171	149	139	137	144	178	217	241	233
6 Civil aerospace and other R and D		n.a.	n.a.	26	33	29	46	70	90	111	118	133	183	135	140	184
7 Industrial Reorganisation Corporation		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	33	26	25	−37	−34	−10	−0.1
8 Industrial training	Loans	—	—	—	—	*	*	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.1	8.3	0.2	0.1	—	—
9 Agriculture support	Grants	*	*	*	*	0.2	0.4	0.6	1.8	3.0	7.2	9.0	10.1	11.9	13.1	11.5
	Price guarantee	140.4	213.7	190.1	178.9	146.1	121.7	108.8	135.0	127.2	127.9	93.5	140.9	55.6	10.3	6.4
	Grants and subsidies	104.5	107.5	109.4	104.1	107.7	103.8	108.4	113.8	124.5	134.8	163.0	181.8	180.3	192.9	289.0
	Market regulations under CAP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	85.6	199.4
10 Fisheries	Grants and subsidies	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.4	4.6	5.1	8.1	5.4	5.9	5.9	8.4	8.1	5.6
	Loans	5.8	4.2	1.8	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.3	2.1	3.6	3.8
11 Forestry		1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0
12 Shipbuilding industry special assistance	Grants						—	—	0.1	5.5	6.5	6.8	12.0	24.1	22.0	17.0
	Loans				See Note 12 –		1.0	3.4	3.5	5.9	10.6	3.2	8.7	7.0	15.6	29.2
	Purchase of shares						0.5	—	—	—	3.0	1.5	4.0	5.0	—	17.8

* Negligible. n.a. Not available.

Notes to table:

1 Excludes payments to public corporations.
2 Includes loans, grants and provision of land and buildings. A breakdown between loans and grants is not readily available.
3 Excludes payments to public corporations.
4 Figures are for special schemes over and above the normal export credit guarantees, since the latter do not involve any charge to the Consolidated Fund. Totals of guarantees are published quarterly in *Trade and Industry*.
5 Expenditure on research and development contracts.
6 Includes expenditure on civil aerospace and on general industrial research and development now the responsibility of the Department of Industry. Due to changes in the way in which records were kept it is not possible to identify this expenditure separately before 1962/63.
7 Figures represent expenditure by the Corporation and subsequent receipts.
8 Figures exclude the Agricultural Training Board, which started in 1970/71.
9 Figures exclude the cost of the milk price guarantee, which is classified as a food subsidy. The figures for payments under the EEC Common Agricultural Policy are gross.
10 The loan figures are gross.
11 Mainly grants to private woodland owners.
12 Figures include all assistance given specifically to the shipbuilding industry including that under Part II of the Industry Act (1972). They exclude support (such as investment grants) available to industry generally.

General notes:

(a) The table includes public expenditure items only. Information on the cash value of tax allowances and rebates, including payments of selective employment premium, is not available.

(b) Totals are not included in the table, since the information asked for includes some expenditure (such as military aircraft R and D, and agricultural support) which is not normally regarded as aid to industry, and excludes some (eg most expenditure under the Industry Act (1972)) which is.

at the outskirts of the first major built-up areas after take-off.

Mr. Jessel then asked if it was intended to continue with the 110 PNdB noise limit at Heathrow Airport for aircraft other than Concorde.

'Yes,' answered Mr. Clinton Davis.

What powers had the Secretary of State for Trade had to grant exemptions from compliance with the 110 PNdB aircraft noise limit at Heathrow Airport, Mr. Jessel inquired.

The 110 PNdB noise limit, and the other noise abatement procedures laid down by the Department at Heathrow, were made by Notice under Section 29, Civil Aviation Act 1971, explained Mr. Clinton Davis. They could be changed at the discretion of the Secretary of State.

Mr. Jessel also asked how many Concorde take-offs were expected daily, and how such movements were expected to influence the position of the noise and number index contours on the south-eastern side of Heathrow Airport.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'When Concorde comes into service in January it is planned by British Airways to operate initially two departures from Heathrow each week. I expect the effect of these flights on the NNI contours to be marginal.'

Post Office staff, costs and pension fund

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked what had been the percentage of the Post Office's total costs represented by wages and salaries in each year since 1969; what percentage the total wages and salaries paid in each of these years bore to the total payments in 1969; how their figures compared with the fall in the value of the pound and with the average national earned incomes, and what were the similar figures for 1949 and 1959.

Information in the precise form of the question was not readily available, replied Mr. MacKenzie. He gave the following information given below.

Mr. Trotter also wanted to know whether the Secretary of State for Industry would review the Government's financial contribution to the Post Office pension fund, having regard to the fall in the value of Consols since the fund had been established on the transfer of the Post Office in 1969 on the basis of a theoretical assignment to it by the Government of Consols.

Mr. MacKenzie said that for 1975-76 the Government had decided that the Post Office had to meet the deficit contributions to its Pension Fund from its own resources. No decision had yet been taken in respect of future years.

The Rev. Robert Bradford (Belfast South) inquired what had been the reduction in staff of the GPO as a result of the expenditure cut of £50 million, and how many of the people made redundant were in the telecommunications industry.

In reply, Mr. MacKenzie said: 'The Hon. Member perhaps has in mind the reductions which the Post Office have made in their estimate of capital investment needed for telecommunications in 1976/77, in the light of their reappraisal of the likely demand for service. This reduction has of course had no effect as yet on the level of Post Office staffing and such economies as will be required will be met principally from natural wastage.'

Telecommunications industry

Mr. Stan Thorne (Preston South) requested a statement on the general condition of the telecommunications industry.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'The telecommunications manufacturing industry faces reductions in future orders by the Post Office, resulting from the downturn in demand for telephone services and calls. As I said in reply to the Question of my Hon. Friend the Member for Kirkaldy on 20 October, the Post Office has told the manufacturers the programme it considers they should plan on for four years ahead. Although orders to be placed next year for Strowger and Crossbar equipment will be higher than previously estimated, the rundown in demand for equipment means that fairly substantial redundancies are inevitable.'

Post Office finance director

Mr. Trotter inquired for what period the Post Office was without a finance director; why the previous director ceased to act; why there was a delay in appointing his successor; whether the Secretary of State for Industry was fully aware of the situation; and what advice or instruction he had given to the Post Office on the matter.

'There was no director with a specific financial responsibility for 15 months following the retirement of Mr. Ashton at the end of 1973,' answered Mr. MacKenzie. 'During this time my predecessor was actively seeking the appointment of a successor with the appropriate experience and qualifications, and it was no easy task to find a candidate of sufficient calibre. In the course of the search he was throughout in close touch with the Post Office.'

Mail deliveries

Mr. Trotter asked what had been the percentage of first class mail and second class mail delivered on time in each of the last 12 months.

Mr. MacKenzie said he was informed by the Post Office that over the 12 months ending September 1975 the percentages of first class letters and second class letters delivered by the first and second working day after posting respectively were:

Average over 12 months ending:	First class mail – % delivered next working day after posting	Second class mail – % delivered second working day after posting
1974		
October	88.0	83.5
November	88.1	83.5
December	88.1	83.6
1975		
January	88.9	84.0
February	89.2	84.2
March	89.2	84.2
April	89.3	84.6
May	89.5	85.0
June	89.7	85.4
July	90.0	86.2
August	90.3	86.7
September	90.7	87.3

Telephone installations

Mr. Trotter wanted to know what was the present number of applications on the waiting list for telephones, and how it compared with recent years.

'The Post Office tell me, said Mr. MacKenzie, 'that the waiting list for telephone installation at the end of August 1975 was 76,000, and it is now the lowest for ten years.'

Mr. Trotter then asked what was the estimated number of new telephones likely to be installed in the current year and the number of phones likely to be removed, and how these figures compared with previous years.

In 1974-75 there were 1,350,000 new telephone exchange connections and 554,000 disconnections, replied Mr. MacKenzie. It was too early for reliable estimates for comparable figures for 1975-76 but the Post Office had told him that provisional estimates were of the order of 1,300,000 connections and 600,000 disconnections.

General directions to the Post Office

Mr. Trotter asked the Secretary of State for Industry on how many occasions, since the establishment of

£ million

POST OFFICE Revenue Account	1949 (1)	1950-51 (1)	1959-60	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Total pay and pensions		108.2	263.7	534.6	570.6	679.4	805.1	952.6	1,260.9 (2)
deduct defficiency provision		NA	13.1	12.2	12.2	12.2	44.3 (3)	112.7 (3)	107.9 (3)
net		108.2	250.6	522.4	558.4	667.2	760.8	839.9	1,153.0
deduct normal provisions		12.9	20.4	40.7	45.7	52.1	61.7 (3)	35.9 (3)	67.5 (3)
Net salaries and wages (excluding pension)		95.3	230.2	*481.7*	512.7	615.1	699.1	804.0	1,085.5
Total costs		198.4	421.6	*1,010.2*	1,123.2	1,337.4	1,594.9	1,890.6	2,429.4
Percentage of salaries and wages to total costs		48.0%	54.6%	47.7%	45.6%	46.0%	43.8%	42.5%	44.7%
Percentage of salaries and wages in each year to total 1969-70:	Pay	19.8%	47.8%	100.0%	106.4%	127.7%	145.1%	166.9%	225.3% (4)
	Total costs			47.7%	50.8%	60.9%	69.2%	79.6%	107.5%
Average earnings index		NA	NA	100.0	113.0	124.8	141.6	159.1	195.5
Retail price index		36.2	69.9	100.0	107.3	117.2	125.6	138.7	163.6
Value of pound	34.6		49.1	68.7	73.1	80.0	85.7	93.5	108.5 (5)

(1) 1949-50 information not readily available.
(2) From Post Office Report and Accounts 1974-75; or relevant year's Account.
(3) 1972-73 to 1974-75 are effected by an actuarial investigation and its results.
(4) Increases include: (a) increased rates; (b) increased numbers; (c) changes in mix of staff.
(5) Index of Prices of consumer goods and services. January 1974 = 100

the Post Office under the 1969 Act, he, or his predecessors, had given a general direction to the Post Office under Section 11 of the Act.

'Once in 1970 under Section 11(1) and (6) of the Post Office Act,' replied Mr. MacKenzie.

Industrial production

Mr. Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was his estimate of the present rate of industrial production, and whether such a rate of production could be maintained.

Mr. Kaufman said that the provisional estimate for the seasonally adjusted index of industrial production for August of this year was 99.1 (1970 = 100). So far as the future level of output was concerned, there were signs of a slowing down in the rate at which industrial activity had been falling.

Metrication programme

Mr. Nigel Lawson (Blaby) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what was her best estimate of the expenditure that would be saved in the public sector by the suspension of progress towards metrication.

Replying Mr. Williams said: 'There is no question of abandoning the metrication programme, which has been running for over 10 years, under succesive Governments. With the exception of the costs of running the Metrication Board, which were approximately £655,000 in 1974, it is not possible to identify savings that might be made in the public sector. Evidence from sectors of industry that have gone metric suggests that once-and-for-all costs of metrication are often incurred at a time when plant and machinery would in any event have to be replaced or serviced. There are also clear savings arising from standardisation and a reduction in stock sizes. The public purchasing sector clearly benefits from such economies.'

Reducing the cost of living

Mr. Robert Woof (Blaydon) requested a statement on the progress of policies to reduce the increase in the cost of living.

Mr. Maclennan responded by saying: 'The Government have set an inflation target of 10 per cent by the third quarter of 1976 and to single figures by the end of 1976. The monthly rate of price increases has begun to slow down in the second half of this year. The monthly rate of increase in the Retail Price Index during the last two months has been under 1 per cent and the year-on-year increase fell for the first time in 13 months in September. However, as we have said, we cannot expect dramatic reductions in the year-on-year rate for some months to come because of past cost increases already in the pipeline.

'The benefits of the new national agreement on pay overwhelmingly endorsed by the TUC and the Labour Party at their annual conferences recently will take some time to be reflected in the RPI.

'My Department is acting to reinforce this overall policy in a number of ways. It is encouraging more local price surveys to give comparative information to shoppers, it is assisting the local authorities to establish more Consumer Advice Centres, it is taking further action on price marking and price listing in public houses, and it is working on proposals for a selective price restraint scheme to be negotiated with the firms and to be introduced as soon as conditions are right.'

Lampholders

Mr. Andrew Bennett (Stockport North) wanted to know what percentage of lampholders sold in the United Kingdom conformed to British Standard 52, and how many substandard lampholders had been the cause of prosecution in the United Kingdom in the last 12 months for which figures were available.

In answer, Mr. Williams said that the information requested in the first part of the question was not available. As the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975 had only recently been made and had not yet come into operation, there had been no prosecutions.

How many accidents resulting in recordable harm had occurred in the United Kingdom during the last 12 months as a result of people touching the unearthed metal part of insulated lampholders (the J slot liner), asked Mr. Bennett.

No fatal accidents due to this cause had been reported to his Department in the 12 months to 31 August 1975, replied Mr. Williams. Separate statistics for other such accidents were not available.

Mr. Bennett inquiried if the Secretary of State for Prices, and Consumer Protection had obtained, for the purposes of Statutory Instrument No. 1366, samples of bayonet lampholders (with and without switches) which conformed to the standards set out in Statutory Instrument No. 1366 when all its sections had come in force, and, if so, would she place samples of such fittings in the Library of the House.

Mr. Williams said: 'Bayonet lampholders without switches which, when sold separately, comply with the regulations are widely on sale. Most existing switched lampholders will need to be redesigned in order to comply with the requirement that live parts shall not be accessible without using tools. A modified version produced by one manufacturer is at present on sale and I have asked for a test report on it.'

Coal imports for electricity

Mr. James Sillars (South Aryshire) asked the Secretary of State for Energy if he could estimate the volume, cost, and sources of coal imports for electricity generation in the first six months of this year and state how low imported coal costs compared with United Kingdom prices.

Mr. Eadie gave the following information on the quantities and average cif values of steam coal imports for January to June 1975 (most of which was believed to be for electricity generation) by country of origin:

	Quantity (thousand tons)	Unit value cif (£/ton)
Australia	1,102	16.67
Canada	87	15.90
Poland	31	14.35
USA	851	21.13
Others	30	21.51
Total	2,101	18.49

Average coal field prices of UK electricity coals ranged between £13 a ton and £18 a ton. The average pithead price of UK coal sold to power stations was £14.50 a ton. However, the quality of coal varied, thereby reducing the value of price comparisons.

Domestic gas price index

Mr. David Knox (Leek) wanted to know what was the price index for domestic gas on 1 August 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975, respectively, taking the price on 1 August 1970 as 100.

Mr. John Smith, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy, gave the following price index figures for domestic gas, as used in compiling the General Index of Retail Prices, for dates closest to those required:

21 July 1970	100
20 July 1971	110
18 July 1972	116
17 July 1973	116
16 July 1974	122
15 July 1975	140

Foreign capital for North Sea

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) inquired if the Secretary of State for Energy was prepared to admit either Japanese public or private capital into the North Sea either in association with the BNOC or in association with other ventures.

Answering, Mr. Smith said: 'Japanese companies will be free to apply for licences in the next licensing round. Their applications will be considered with others. The arrangements for the round will be announced early next year. Although the terms of the round have, in many respects, yet to be decided there will be provision for majority state participation in any commercial finds and these state shares will be held by BNOC. International banks including Japanese banks are already participating in North Sea financing. Whether they undertake future North Sea lending is for their own commercial judgement.'

Was the Secretary of State prepared to admit further Iranian capital (NIOC) to participate in consortia in the North Sea, Mr. Skeet also wanted to know.

NIOC would again be free to apply for licences in the next round of licensing, replied Mr. Smith. Any such applications would be considered along with others. The arrangements for the round would be announced early next year.

Mr. Skeet then asked if the Secretary of State would be prepared to invite or to admit Saudi Arabian capital (Petromin) to participate in consortia in the North Sea.

Mr. Smith said that Petromin would be free to apply for licences in the next round of licensing. Any such applications would be considered along with others. The arrangements for the round would be announced early next year.

Scottish North Sea oil export potential

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) wanted to know what export potential of oil from the Scottish jurisdiction sector of the North Sea oil was anticipated to occur in 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2000, respectively.

'The Brown Book forecasts,' said Mr. Smith, 'that we should be producing 100-130 million tons of oil per annum by 1980, and perhaps 100-150 million tons per annum throughout the 1980s. A very large share will come from fields located in waters off the Scottish coast. My Rt. Hon. friend and predecessor said on 6 December last year that it was reasonable to expect that up to two thirds of North Sea oil will be refined in the UK and this will leave a substantial margin for export as crude.'

Colliery Waste

Mr. Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) requested information on research being undertaken in the

United Kingdom into uses for colliery waste, including information regarding the location of any establishments concerned in this work, the number of personnel involved and the expenditures incurred.

In reply, Mr. Eadie said: 'I am informed that research into uses of colliery waste is being undertaken at the Coal Research Establishment of the National Coal Board, the Building Research Establishment (DOE) and the Transport and Road Research Laboratory (DOE).

'A plant is currently in operation for the production of 500,000 tonnes per annum of lightweight aggregate for use in the construction industry. Other possible uses being investigated are dense aggregates for use in building construction, base material in road construction, special blocks for replacing wood in underground colliery operations and as a source of alumina. The number of personnel in all three establishments working on the use of colliery waste is equivalent to about 20 full-time staff, with current expenditure being of the order of £200,000 per annum.'

Power station closures

Mrs. Maureen Colquhoun (Northampton North) asked what meetings the Secretary of State for Energy was having with the CEGB and the trade unions on the proposals to close power stations throughout the country.

Mr. Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said: 'Further to my answer of 15 October, my Hon. Friend may now have seen the joint statement issued by the electricity supply industry's National Joint Advisory Council following its meeting on 16 October, at which agreement was reached on the closure of certain stations and the partial shutdown of others. I shall, of course, be discussing the general closure position, as I mentioned, with both the CEGB and the unions; and I am hoping to widen the discussions on future policy desisions to include the NCB and the mining unions who have a direct interest in the rate of coal burn.'

Friday, 24 October

Textile imports

Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations had been received by his Department over irrevocable letters of credit, between British exporters and importers, for textile imports, whereby payment was not required from the importer until the operating bank abroad pays the exporter.

In reply Mr. Deakins said: 'I have received representations from a number of firms and organisations, comprising both importers and manufacturers. By and large the importers are naturally concerned at the potential loss to them if goods ordered on letters of credit are not given import licences; the manufacturers are equally naturally concerned at the loss of potential business to them if import licences are given.'

Mr. Madden also wanted to know which developed countries export textiles to the United Kingdom; what was the volume and value of those textiles over the last five years, and what was the present balance of trade position of each of those countries with the United Kingdom.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The United Kingdom imports textiles from virtually every developed country. Information in the detail requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the broad picture can be gained from the figures for SITC(R) Division 65 published in Table 1 of Volume 1 of the *Annual Statement of Overseas Trade* for years 1970 to 1973 and Table 11 of the December 1974 issue of the *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom.*

'Balance of trade figures are not available with individual countries on a balance of payments basis. The crude trade balance – ie the difference between imports cif and exports fob – with each of the countries with which we trade can be obtained from Tables II and V of the monthly Overseas Trade Statistics.'

How many anti-dumping applications had been made by British interests against textiles imports; how many such applications were being considered currently; and how many such applications had been agreed, inquired Mr. Madden.

Since the beginning of 1975 the Department had received one formal application for anti-dumping action against textile imports, stated Mr. Deakins. This application had been accepted for full investigation on 4 September 1975. It related to double- and single-textured raincoats from Hong Kong and South Korea. The investigation was now under way.

Motor cycle imports

Mr. Keith Speed (Ashford) asked what representations had been received about restricting imports of motor cycles, and what replies had been sent.

'I have replied today to the one letter the Department has received about imports of motor cycles,' replied Mr. Deakins.

OECD terms of trade

Mr. David Howell (Guildford) requested details of figures of the terms of trade of the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, the USA, Japan and the OECD area as a whole, for each quarter or every third month since the beginning of 1973.

In response, Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

TERMS OF TRADE [1]

	United Kingdom	German FR	France	Italy	United States	Japan	OECD [2]
1973 1st quarter	97.5	104.0	103.7	95.8	94.2	102.0	100.0
2nd quarter	93.9	103.9	106.5	91.7	90.8	98.0	97.9
3rd quarter	88.3	107.0	105.4	90.4	93.4	100.9	98.2
4th quarter	84.4	100.9	104.2	87.3	91.3	98.3	96.0
1974 1st quarter	76.8	92.7	86.9	75.1	85.5	80.8	87.6
2nd quarter	75.4	95.3	87.5	72.9	77.6	76.9	84.8
3rd quarter	77.3	96.2	87.9	73.8	77.6	79.8	85.6
4th quarter	78.8	98.5	88.6	76.9	79.7	77.9	86.5
1975 1st quarter	80.0	103.1	89.1	78.3	81.7	74.2	87.5
2nd quarter	83.2	103.9	96.9	..	80.1	73.8	..

[1] Export average value index as a percentage of import average value index 1970 = 100
[2] Member countries average value index numbers in national currency terms weighted together by the value of trade in 1970. No index numbers are published by the OECD for Iceland, New Zealand, Portugal and Turkey; these countries are excluded.
.. not available.
Source: OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade – Series A.

Companies registration postal inquiries

Mr. Cranley Onslow (Woking) asked why had the Secretary of State for Trade approved the discontinuation by the Companies Registration Office of the postal inquiry service.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'We have felt obliged to withdraw the facility because the volume of work arising from the statutory duties of the Companies Registration Office continues to increase and it is no longer possible to provide the additional staff needed for the postal inquiry services, which are non-statutory functions. The staff previously employed on these services will be redeployed on statutory duties of the Office.'

Farm animal exports

Mr. Geraint Howells (Cardigan) put two questions asking how many live sheep, lambs and cattle had been exported to France and Belgium during the past three months.

In response, Mr. Deakins indicated that the following numbers were exported during the third quarter of 1975:

	France	Belgium (including Luxembourg)
Live sheep and lambs	16,545	19,205
Live cattle	3,830	10,596

Public aid to textile industry

Mr. Max Madden asked the Secretary of State for Industry, how much public assistance had been given to the textile industry, including support for modernisation schemes, over the past five years; if he would give details of financial support which was currently available to the industry, and whether any specific subsidy or support was available in respect of the increasing cost of oil, on which certain sections of the industry relied extensively.

Mr. Gerald Kaufman answered: 'I give below the figures showing identifiable financial assistance to the textile industry for the last five years.

'The financial support currently available to the textile industry includes two schemes of assistance under Section 8 of the Industry Act:

a) The Wool Industry Scheme: £15 million is available under the Scheme to assist the wool textile industry to maintain its competitive position in the long term by rationalising its production facilities, improving its structure and eliminating uneconomic capacity;

b) The Clothing Industry Scheme: Up to £20 million will be made available under this Scheme for re-organisation, restructuring and modernisation to increase productivity and efficiency in the industry. Details of the scheme were announced by my Rt. Hon. and Noble Friend the Minister of State on 15 October 1975.

'In addition, the textile industry also qualifies for appropriate regional incentives, including Government-built factories, regional employment premium etc., for expansion or development in the assisted areas. The Temporary Employment Subsidy and the Recruitment Subsidy for school-leavers are available to the textile industry irrespective of the location of individual firms.

'No specific subsidy or support is available in respect of increases in the cost of oil.

'Identifiable financial assistance to the textile industry for the last five years is as follows (£'000 unless otherwise stated):

1. Research Associations

1971	1972	1973	1974	1975 to date
371	357	320	349	332

2. Grants under the Local Employment Act (excluding factory assistance)

	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
loans	1,972	1,360	890	—	—
grants	4,790	3,170	1,992	1,736	21

3. Offers of assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972

1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
n.a.	4,900	3,600

4. Wool Textile Scheme under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972: £11 million has been committed since the beginning of the Scheme of which £4.8 million has been paid out.

5. IRC loans

1970/71	1971/72	1972/73
1,600	1,400	Nil

6. Investment grants

1970/71	1971/72
29,300	Nil

No analysis by industry available for later years.

7. Regional Development Grants

1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
1,000	7,700	14,520

8. Grants in aid to the Textile Council, Clothing Export Council and National Wool Textile Export Corporation: 1970/71 – 55

Kearney and Trecker Marwin

Mr. Robert Taylor (Croydon North-West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if, in view of the investment of public funds in the company of Kearney and Trecker Marwin or its holding company, he would give some indication of the current trading situation and the prospects for the current year.

'My Department', replied Mr. Kaufman, 'are in continuing touch with these companies and with Vickers who, under an agreement concluded last year, are managing the business. I cannot add at present to what is stated in the chairman's statement accompanying the report and accounts for 1974 of Kearney and Trecker Marwin Ltd.'

Mr. Taylor also wanted to know what was the total amount of public money invested in the company of Kearney and Trecker Marwin or its holding company, and what was the total outstanding commitment to this company.

Mr. Kaufman said that £4.95 million was at present invested in shares of KTM Machine Tools (Holdings) Ltd. In addition, the Department held £235,000 in preference shares in Kearney and Trecker Marwin Ltd., which were originally purchased from the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation. Also, a guarantee, with a maximum contingent liability of £250,000 as reported to the House on 13 October, had been provided to the company's bankers.

Mr. Taylor then asked what was the security for the public funds invested in or committed to Kearney and Trecker Marwin; what were the company's results in the most recently published accounts, and if, in view of the public funds available to the company, a copy of the latest accounts of the company would be made available in the Library.

'As the Department's investment is in the form of shares, it is of course unsecured,' answered Mr. Kaufman. 'The guarantee of £250,000 is secured by a counter-indemnity by the company. I am arranging for a copy of the report and accounts for 1974 to be placed in the Library as soon as they become publicly available.'

European Regional Development Fund

Mr. Tom Ellis (Wrexham) asked what criteria were used to decide which of the applications for aid from the European Regional Development Fund were submitted to the Fund's administrators, and also what Government machinery was used to decide which applications for aid from the European Regional Development Fund were submitted to the Fund's administrators.

Applications were submitted through the Department of Industry following inter-Departmental consultations, explained Mr. MacKenzie. The applications were prepared by the responsible Departments including the Scottish and Welsh Offices and the Northern Ireland Departments. In selecting projects to put forward Departments took account of the provisions of the Fund Regulation, of the views expressed by the Commission and the Community's Regional Policy Committee and the Fund Management Committee, of the investments being undertaken in the assisted areas, of the schemes suggested by local authorities and other public authorities, of the views of other investors, and of the priorities in the Government's regional policy.

Postcode system

Mr. Cranley Onslow inquired what was the estimated cost to the Post Office, in the current financial year, of the postcode system, and what it would be in 1976-77 and 1977-78.

'This is a matter,' said Mr. MacKenzie, 'for the Post Office, who tell me that the estimated cost of the upkeep of the postcode system, which involves in particular the allocation of postcodes to new addresses and the production of postcode directories, is £0.6 million for the current financial year and £0.5 million for each of the following two years.'

What proportion of letters were estimated to include the postcode in the address, and how did it affect delivery, Mr. Onslow then asked.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'This is a matter for the Post Office, who tell me that they estimate the public usage of postcodes on average to be 45 per cent. Twelve offices now have automatic code sorting equipment in use and these handle about 10 million items a week.'

Mr. Onslow subsequently asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would issue a general direction to the Post Office to discontinue the postcode system.

'No,' responded Mr. MacKenzie. 'This would not be an appropriate subject for a general direction, and in any case postcodes allow optimum use of automatic letter sorting equipment and so reduce costs and save manpower in sorting offices.'

Price comparison surveys

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection which local authorities had been awarded money by her Department for price comparison surveys; and what was the total of grants so far made.

In answer, Mr. Maclennan said that local price survey schemes had been approved for the London boroughs of Barking, Ealing, Haringey, Hillingdon, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Southwark, Wandsworth and Westminster; the counties of Cleveland, Clwyd, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon, Dyfed, Greater Manchester, Gwent, Gwynedd, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Mid-Glamorgan, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Salop, South Glamorgan, Tyne and Wear, West Glamorgan and West Yorkshire; the Strathclyde Regional Council in Scotland; and the Llanelli and Penarth Citizens' Advice Bureaux. The grants approved totalled £94,000 per annum.

House of Lords

Wednesday, 22 October

Aircraft heights over Chelsea

Lord Kinnaird asked what was the height below which aircraft approaching Heathrow were prohibited from flying over Chelsea.

Lord Beswick replied: 'My Lords, the height of aircraft approaching Heathrow is controlled by Department of Trade noise abatement regulations and by Air Traffic Control procedures, on which I have been advised by the Civil Aviation Authority. Chelsea is about 10 miles from the touchdown point for aircraft approaching Heathrow from the East, and the Air Traffic Control require aircraft making such approaches to intercept, at a distance of between eight and 12 miles from touchdown, a radio beam which is projected by the airport's instrument landing system. Aircraft overflying Chelsea before intercepting the radio beam are required by the Department of Trade not to fly below 2,000 ft. Aircraft making an interception before or over Chelsea will be at a height of 2,500 ft and 3,000 ft.

BOTB News

Visits by British Overseas Commercial Officers

The following Overseas Commercial Officers are expected to be in this country shortly, when they will be available for discussions:

Algeria
D. J. Brown, MBE, Commercial Counsellor, in Algiers since December 1973.
Available: February 1976.

Malawi
M. J. Serry, Commercial Officer in Blantyre since July 1974.
Available: February 1976.

Portugal
Mrs. J. Fernandes, Commercial Officer, locally engaged grade 1, since April 1975.
Available: February 1976.

Tanzania
J. K. Chapman, First Secretary (Commercial), in Dar-es-Salaam since August 1974.
Available: March 1976.

British firms and organisations, other than those in Northern Ireland and in the areas covered by the Department of Trade Offices for the Eastern Region and the London and South Eastern Region, who wish to meet these officers to discuss specific export problems are asked to write for appointment to the appropriate Department of Industry Regional Director (Exports) stating the nature of the problem and commodities involved. Those firms and organisations in the London-based Regions mentioned above (together with those in other Regions who would prefer, or who would be prepared if necessary to meet the officers for an interview in London) should write to Tours Section, Overseas Visitors Bureau, Department of Trade, Room G60, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Firms and organisations who wish to meet these officers in Northern Ireland should contact the Export Branch of the Department of Commerce, Belfast.

Because Commercial Officers often have only limited time at their disposal it may not always be possible to fit everyone in. Where it is possible, firms are reminded that the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, who are in close touch with all Overseas Commercial Officers can very often supply advice, or the information that applicants hoped to obtain at the interview. Outside London the Regional Offices of the Department of Industry or, in Northern Ireland, the Department of Commerce, Belfast, can also help.

Advanced British products at 'Microtecnic', Zurich

A group of 15 British companies are taking part in the 5th International Trade Fair for High Precision Techniques, Dimensional Control and Measurement, 'MICROTECNIC', which opened in Zurich on 27 October and continues until 1 November. The firms are exhibiting within a joint venture group organised by the British Overseas Trade Board and sponsored by the Gauge and Toolmakers Association.

Substantial interest is expected in the British exhibits which include an electronic gauging system, indicating snap gauges, automatic radius measurements instruments, a computer controlled cam shaft measuring machine, electronic measuring systems, a three dimensional checking and inspection machine, power driven precision bench centres, internal micrometers, a flexible gauging system and tungsten carbide gauge blocks.

'MICROTECNIC' is a biennial event of substantial importance to experts in precision techniques, dimensional measurement and control. This year the main emphasis of the exhibits is on the rationalisation of measurement techniques.

British food for Canada

The wide-ranging opportunities for British exports of food and drink to Canada was the theme of a seminar 'Food to Canada' held at the World Trade Centre in London on 23 October. The seminar was organised by the British Food Export Council and supported by the British Overseas Trade Board.

Harold Connell, president of Weetabix of Canada, spoke on the success of Weetabix and Alpen in Canada, while Richard Palmer, chairman, and Alan Battle, director, of Associated Biscuits International Ltd., explained how their company has built up substantial Canadian sales.

British exports of food and drink to Canada in 1974 were valued at £39 million, compared to £27 million in 1973 – an increase of 47 per cent.

The seminar provided an introduction to a selling mission, supported by the BOTB and BFEC, which will be visiting Canada from 21–30 September next year.

The panel of speakers at the Food to Canada seminar included (from left to right): Mr. A. M. A. Battle, director, Associated Biscuits International Ltd; Mr. P. Amos, director, Weetabix Ltd.; Mr. K. Padden, director, Fine Fare Ltd.; Mr. H. F. Connell, president, Weetabix of Canada Ltd.; Mr. D. G. Brown, vice president sales and marketing, Associated Biscuits of Canada Ltd., and Mr. R. J. Palmer, chairman, Associated Biscuits International Ltd.

Missions and Tours

Lord Beswick leads high level trade mission to Iran

A British trade mission organised by the CBMPE, the British Trade Association of Petroleum Equipment Suppliers, and supported by the British Overseas Trade Board will visit Iran from 1-9 November.

The mission will be led by Lord Beswick, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, accompanied by Mr. A. T. Wright, Chairman of the CBMPE. It will include three members of the BOTB: Lord Briginshaw, nominated by the Trades Union Congress to represent them on the Board and until recently a member of the TUC General Council; the Earl of Limerick, President of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce and a director of Kleinwort Benson Ltd.; and Mr. J. W. Buckley, chairman of Davey International Ltd. and a member of the CBMPE.

Other members of the CBMPE in the mission are Mr. F. W. Edwards, managing director of Humphreys and Glasgow Ltd.; Mr. J. E. Williams, deputy chairman of Foster Wheeler Ltd.; and Mr. J. B. Woodeson, chairman of Clarke Chapman Ltd. and of Reyrolle Parsons Ltd.

Iran is Britain's largest and most rapidly developing market in the Middle East. UK exports consist mainly of transport equipment, machinery, chemicals, metal manufactures and military equipment. In addition to visible exports, Iran's extensive programme of infrastructural developments – ports, railways, road, schools, hospitals and housing – provides opportunities for British services including management, contracting, and consultancy.

British industry has already contributed much to the development of the Iranian oil industry and the mission is intended to give a boost to British involvement in the many new projects being planned.

Members of the CBMPE mission will visit Iran from 1-9 November. The mission will be led by Lord Beswick, Minister of State at the Department of Industry (seated in the centre). The mission's purpose is to identify those prospects where a concerted approach – covering know-how, construction, equipment, investment, finance and manpower – by British industry can be successful in competing for business.

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors, and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Biggest ever NEDC mission heads east

The largest trade mission ever to leave the North of England takes off for Japan on 7 November.

There are 20 companies taking part in this the fourth mission organised this year by the North of England Development Council under the auspices of the British Overseas Trade Board.

On offer to the lucrative but highly competitive Japanese market will be the widest range of goods and services ever assembled in an NEDC Mission. Goods range from golfing clothes to handbags and from Lindisfarne Mead to ornamental hornware.

Companies from every county in the Region are represented on the mission. Roughly half have already been doing business in Japan, and all are confident that their products meet the requirements of the Japanese market.

NEDC will be taking advantage of the presence of the mission in Tokyo to conduct a high-level inward investment seminar at the British Export Marketing Centre on 18 November.

The mission will be led by Dr. John N. Bridge, NEDC's Head of Research and Industrial Development. Mission Secretary will be Danny Sharpe of the British Overseas Trade Board's Northern Region office.

Based in Tokyo, the mission will return to this country on 23 November.

BCI seminar on Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador

A seminar on trading opportunities in Venezeuela, Colombia and Ecuador has been organised by Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce and will take place at the Chamber on Wednesday 12 November. A trade mission supported by the British Overseas Trade Board, has been planned for next year – 29 May-15 June.

The mission will spend one week in Venezuela and three working days in both Colombia and Ecuador. This will be the first Chamber mission to visit Colombia and Ecuador.

Successful engineering mission to South Africa

Firm orders totalling £¼ million were brought back by the 19-man mission visiting South Africa from 27 September to 12 October, with the prospect of further orders totalling £5¼ million within the next 12 months.

The mission, sponsored jointly by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre, was led by Michael F. Crawley of the Macawber Engineering Company of Doncaster. Visits were made to Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town with some members branching off to Port Elizabeth, where there are excellent opportunities for British firms to supply component parts and accessories for the motor car industry. Those members who were entirely new to the market made good contacts, obtained orders and, in one or two cases, appointed an agent.

The products promoted covered a wide range in the engineering field such as four-wheel drive loaders, tractors and rough terrain trucks, dispensing machines, machine and hand tools, dies and precision engineering cutting tools, pumps and pumping equipment, welding wires and rods for specialised application, electro-mechanical micro switches, electrical measuring instruments, pneumatic cylinders, sheeting cutting machinery, riveting machines and mechanical handling equipment.

Despite the recent devaluation of the Rand, mission members, as can be seen from the results, found the market receptive and South African industry confident in its future development.

This was the second successful BEBC mission to South Africa. The first was in July 1973. Another is confidently planned for September 1977.

Opportunities for UK capital goods in Japan

A seminar to examine the medium and long-term opportunities for British exports of capital goods to Japan will be held in the Council Chamber of the Confederation of British Industry, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1, on 20 November. The event is being organised by the Japan-British Trade Group in co-operation with the British Overseas Trade Board.

Chairman

Lord Limerick will be the chairman of the seminar and the Japanese Ambassador in London, Tadao Kato, will speak at the lunch. Chikao Tsukuda, director of the Industrial Structure Division of the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry and a government economist specialising in industrial policy, will be specially flown over from Japan to discuss the growth in the capital goods market. Mr. I. Takashima of Kyokuto Boeki Kaisha Ltd. will discuss the role of Japanese trading firms in marketing capital goods and a British industrialist will give his assessment of marketing these goods in Japan.

Japanese government review

A recent review by the Japanese government forecasts that by 1985 the Japanese market for imported manufactured goods will be $57,500 million – accounting for 35 per cent of total imports. As Japan's industry becomes ever more technologically sophisticated there will be increasing scope for imports of machinery, metal fabrication, transport equipment and construction goods. These are areas where British sales to Japan are growing and British industry is in a favourable position to exploit further export opportunities.

Mr. D. Duploy (left), a member of an inward mission of electronic component buyers representing 12 South Africa-based firms, at a special display put on by British firms at the Portman Hotel, London, on 13 October. With Mr. Duploy, discussing this display by Amp of Great Britain Ltd., are (centre) Mr. J. Farrell, chairman of the export committee of the Radio and Electronic Component Manufacturers Federation, and Mr. B. S. Watts, Amp's export manager. The mission was supported by the British Overseas Trade Board and sponsored by the RECMF.

London Chamber in Jordan and Syria

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry sent a trade mission to Jordan and Syria on 24 October with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board. Under the leadership of Lord Colgrain, a director of Anthony Gibbs Holdings and a member of the Chamber's council, the mission which also hopes to visit Iraq, is due to return to the UK on 9 November after exploring opportunities for increased trade with these rapidly developing countries.

Following a slowdown in Jordan's economic growth in late 1974, activity in the past six months has picked up, with industrial production increasing and receipts from tourism growing. Jordan plans to greatly increase agricultural production along the Jordan valley and, by 1976, to triple output of its biggest industry, phosphate mining, which earned about £11 million in foreign exchange in 1974.

The visit to Syria coincides with the publication of the country's fourth five-year development plan (1975-80), which envisages substantial production increases in the agricultural, cement, textile and clothing, electronics, vehicle and fertliser industries.

Iraq's financial position has been transformed by increased oil revenues, which should allow the country to become more self-sufficient through extensive diversification. With oil reserves predicted to last until beyond the turn of the century, but with insufficient qualified manpower and technical skills, Iraq will be seeking foreign assistance in setting up plants on a turnkey basis, improving communications and increasing agricultural output and efficiency.

During the mission Lord Colgrain will have discussions with trade, economic and banking officials in the three countries on British participation in their future developments. Members of the mission will discuss their findings and conclusions at a meeting at the London Chamber on 12 December.

Manchester goes to Latin America

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry is planning a trade mission to Ecuador and Peru from 25 March to 10 April next year with the support of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Both countries are considered to offer increasing short- and long-term opportunities for British industry wishing to take part in contributing to the respective national industrial development plans, through the supply of capital equipment and specialised industrial goods, joint ventures with domestic enterprises, and the transfer of technology, including advisory services.

Exhibitions and Fairs

Results at Düsseldorf's plastics fair exceed expectations

From Mr. Spies, Commercial Section, Düsseldorf: Most of the British exhibitors at Düsseldorf,'s 7th Plastics and Rubber Exhibition 'K 75' were very pleased with the results achieved. To the surprise of exhibitors since it is unusual at this type of exhibition, numerous and substantial orders were taken. Given the present economic climate, however, it is not surprising that most of these orders came from non-European countries.

Held at the Düsseldorf exhibition centre from 7-14 October, K 75 had attracted 153,000 visitors at the end of its eight-day duration, of whom almost 40 per cent came from outside Germany. This figure, once again outlines the international importance of this fair. Although the number of visitors was somewhat down (13 per cent) on the last event held in 1971, exhibititors agreed that the professional qualifications of the visitors were in general unusually high. This is also reflected in the fact that, according to the organisers, only 8 per cent of the exhibitors said that the results of K 75 did not come up to expectations.

In his opening speech, Hans Friderichs, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, said that what the plastics and rubber industry needed now was profits in order to be able to invest. It was hoped, therefore, that K 75 would bring about a change in climate and encouragement for investors. This aim appears to have been achieved, for towards the end of the fair exhibitors were expressing cautious optimism. They were particularly encouraged by the numerous inquiries from outside Germany and they are now confident in the medium to long term prospects for the plastics and rubber industry. It remains to be seen, however, how quickly the change of climate will manifest itself in actual orders.

The stand of Industrial Plastics Ltd. of London at the 7th International Plastics and Rubber Fair in Düsseldorf.

Two joint venture stands

In contrast, the 56 British firms exhibiting on two joint venture stands in Hall 8 and Hall 1, were less cautious in their optimism. Most of them were more than pleased with the inquiries and indeed orders received. They regard K 75 as the best exhibition of its kind.

The two joint venture stands were organised by the British Plastics Federation with the aid of the Department of Trade. On the joint venture stand in Hall 8, 34 firms showed machinery and equipment: a further 22 UK companies exhibited raw materials, semi-finished and finished articles and accessories in Hall 1. In addition, the British Plastics Federation was represented with information stands in both halls. A further 35 UK companies were exhibiting either independently or on the stands of their agents, making British firms the strongest foreign contingent at this exhibition.

Well prepared

British firms had come to K 75 well prepared. They had studied a market report on the potential of British plastics in West Germany published and compiled by the British Plastics Federation with the financial assistance of the Department of Trade. In addition to this, ample publicity material on the exhibits and the exhibitors had been sent to the international trade press prior to the event and was also made available to visitors on the information stands.

International meeting place

Once again K 75 proved to be both an international meeting place for all those involved in plastics and plastics processing and a trend setter for this industry. This is also reflected in the very encouraging number of British exhibitors, most of whom thought it extremely important to have participated. Practically all of them said that they would come again for the next exhibition, to be held in Düsseldorf in the autumn of 1979.

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Chinaware, ceramic novelties and figurines, glassware (kitchen and table), sewing machines – domestic and industrial (needles and parts), guitars and similar, harmonicas, also archery bows

The two-in-one fair at Lyons

From the British Consulate-General, Lyons: MEUROPAM and PRO-MEUROPAM are two exhibitions in one. Held in Lyons annually since 1960, MEUROPAM, the 'Marché Européen de l'Ameublement' is a furniture exhibition to which furnishings and accessories were added in 1962 under the title PRO-MEUROPAM, or 'Marché International des Fournitures Professionnelles pour l'Ameublement'. Between them, the two exhibitions cover some 58,000m² in part of the Lyons Fair premises. Admission is restricted to trade and professional categories only.

This year, from 4-7 October, there were 810 exhibitors of whom 280 were from outside France; 25 foreign countries were represented; there were 20,500 trade visitors from 33 countries. It is noteworthy that these exhibition statistics reflect an increase each year on the previous year's figures: the sign of a healthy exhibition.

The British participation in MEUROPAM occupied three complete galleries, with 30 furniture manufacturers taking part in the joint venture sponsored by the Department of Industry under the auspices of the British Furniture Manufacturers' Association.

The extremely attractive lay-out of the British galleries, designed by the technical services of British Overseas Trade Board, was very highly appreciated by exhibitors and visitors alike, and a trophy was awarded by the exhibition organisers for the best foreign participation.

British manufacturers are particularly known in France for their reproduction furniture; the elegant design and quality workmanship is widely admired. Reproduction dining room suites and bookcases were in evidence on most of the British stands, together with comfortable armchairs upholstered in leather and fabrics. Some outstanding items were made of yew, a wood which is very little employed in France. More modern lines were represented by a range of small bars which sell well on the French market. New to Lyons this year was a four-poster bed which attracted much attention.

It is significant that the majority of the British firms taking part were not newcomers to the Lyons exhibition. These regular exhibitors at MEUROPAM are well aware of the solid market potential for their products in this area. The newcomers among the British exhibitors were all very pleased with the contacts they established.

In spite of prevailing economic conditions, the British exhibitors reported 'a satisfactory exhibition from the business point of view'. Indeed, signs of a promising trade recovery were reported. All of the British exhibitors declared that they were encouraged by this year's MEUROPAM to continue exhibiting in France; they see continued participation as indispensable to sell British reproduction furniture in France.

Jans of London, of London Road, Brandon, Suffolk, were among 28 British companies exhibiting at MEUROPAM, in Lyon, under the sponsorship of the British Overseas Trade Board and the British Furniture Manufacturers Federated Association.

Pushchairs and prams do good business in Cologne

From R. Tempest, British Embassy, Commercial Department, Bonn: The Autumn Fair For The Child took place in Cologne from 10–12 October. Once again British firms were prominent with a total of 18 exhibitors. Sixteen firms formed a joint venture, sponsored by the City of Westminster Chamber of Commerce in co-operation with the British Overseas Trade Board.

In the three days, the fair attracted 8,100 trade visitors (the same total as last year), 2,500 of them from foreign countries.

The British group was made up of established exhibitors at the fair, together with a fair proportion of newcomers. On their stands was to be found a wide range, covering clothing, toys, nursery goods, high chairs, car chairs, prams and pushchairs and their components and attachments.

Among the British stands, buvers' interest was centred around pushchairs and prams, as well as high chairs and their components and attachments. Mr. Cheetham of Snalli Safety Products, for example, was able to claim the best fair in Cologne for 14 years' – surely a tribute to consistent exhibiting. Buyers for the Snalli products came this year mainly from near east countries.

Similarly, exhibits of pushchairs, particularly those with new features, attracted much interest from buyers, as did the manufacturers of pram wheels of plastic material which caught the imagination of German and foreign buyers alike. Luxury prams, the best of which are made in the UK were in demand once again, especially from German buyers.

Exhibitors of toys, nursery goods and clothing had a less rewarding fair than their pram colleagues, but nevertheless were able to make some new contacts which may lead to good 'after fair' business.

Engineering equipment on show in Johannesburg

A total of 34 British manufacturers took part or were represented at the Machine Tool and Production Engineering Exhibition held in Johannesburg from 20-24 October. The firms were exhibiting within a joint venture group supported by the British Overseas Trade Board in co-operation with the Machine Tool Trades Association and the Engineering Industries Association.

British exhibits introduced to the South African market included a new single spindle automatic lathe, a cross feeding turret lathe, a tube straightening machine, a power jig saw, a lightweight sand grinder and a numerical control milling and boring machine. There was also a wide selection of turret type machine centres, drillers and tappers, surface grinders, forming machines, ultrasonic cleaning and degreasing equipment and industrial ropes and slings.

The exhibition, which covers a full range of machine tool, production engineering and auxilliary equipment is an important event and it is complemented by a comprehensive programme of seminars and conferences.

Major engineering event in Stockholm

The British Overseas Trade Board supported 17 British companies at the 14th International Technical Fair in Stockholm from 16-22 October. The joint venture group was organised in collaboration with the Engineering Industries Association.

British exhibits comprised materials handling equipment, grinding machines, generators, milling equipment, tubing, machine tools, pneumatic control equipment, vibrators, synthetic rubber moulding, industrial fasteners, small precision die-castings and ultrasonic systems.

The Stockholm Technical Fair, the largest of its kind in Scandinavia, attracts exhibitors and buyers from most European countries, the USA and Canada. This year the event contained two special sections featuring joining technology and materials handling. Seminars on these subjects were held concurrently with the exhibition.

Well supported British group in Gothenburg

From Thomas Abraham, British Consul (Commercial), Gothenburg: ELFACK, the international electro-technical trade fair in Gothenburg, has rapidly grown into the largest specialised electrical show in Scandinavia. Every other year the Swedish electrical and electronic trade and industry gather for a combined programme of conferences, displays, demonstrations and sales promotion. Indicative of the success of the earlier shows is the fact that exhibition space at ELFACK is sold out almost from one fair to another.

Fortunately in 1977 two new exhibition halls are expected to be taken into service and the organisers, Svenska Mässan, hope it will then be possible to reduce the long waiting list. The fair has in the past been dominated by West German and Swedish industries, but a number of British companies have displayed a wide range of products on the stands of their Swedish agents thereby making new inroads into an already established market.

Opening day on the GKN Sankey stand at ELFACK in Gothenburg.

This year's event was held on 6–10 October and over 700 exhibitors from 24 countries participated. It was the 4th International Fair and included for the first time a British joint venture sponsored by the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers Association (BEAMA) in collaboration with the British Overseas Trade Board. The participating group of seven British companies received excellent support from their organisation and their Swedish agents. They were visited on the opening day by representatives from the Swedish Power Board, the Provincial Governor, and the Lord Mayor of Gothenburg.

The attractive British island stand contained a very interesting range of equipment and components. There were military panel meters, electrical laminations, dies, racking systems, variable speed drives and dc motors, safety cut-outs and variable thermostats, printed circuit boards and film capacitors, communication equipment and warning systems.

Many promising inquiries were received which could lead to important new business in Scandinavia. The lesson was again learnt that exhibitors who had prepared the ground before coming achieved most success. Good use had been made in advance of the customer cards provided by the organisers and the British companies found participation very worthwhile. All but one wished to exhibit again at ELFACK in Gothenburg.

Shopping week boosts UK sales in Bologna

From W. B. J. Dobbs, Commercial Section, British Consulate General, Milan: More than 300 shops in central Bologna displayed a wide range of consumer goods from Britain during the Settimana Britannica organised by the Consulate in Florence with assistance from the Milan Consulate-General from 27 September–5 October.

Preliminary reports indicate that many retailers experienced sales increases in British products of 20 per cent and more during the course of the week, and in some sectors commodities from British suppliers had to be re-ordered after the first couple of days. Hopefully, the closer contact between agents of British suppliers and their customers in Bologna will generate an overall increase in sales of such products.

The participating shops, whose ranks swelled daily, put a great deal of effort into their window displays, supported by material supplied by the Department of Trade, and the majority participated in a window-dressing competition organised by the British Chamber of Commerce for Italy.

Special mention should be made of the extensive support provided by the Municipality, British Airways, the local Chamber of Commerce and Associazione Commercianti, Italian agents and subsidiaries of British firms such as Cadbury-Schweppes, Ronson, Rowntree-Mackintosh, Cucirini Cantoni Coats, to list only a few.

During the week, a number of ancillary events took place, including two performances of Harold Pinter's 'The Collection' by a British Theatre Group, continuous showings of well-known British films and the serving of typical British menus at several hotels and restaurants throughout the city. These gastronomic delights were organised by the British Tourist Authority and the Bologna Provincial Tourist Authority, while the Scotch Whisky Association hosted a whisky-tasting. Throughout the week, a pipers band from Scotland drew spectacular crowds wherever they paraded, whilst a further British flavour was provided by the presence on point duty of two constables from the Coventry Police Force.

Among the side effects are the valuable links between Britain and the City and Province of Bologna that have been forged in the cultural and social fields. In this context, a mass of favourable publicity for the event was achieved – some 70 newspaper items have been recorded so far.

British goods on display during the British Shopping Week in Bologna.

Export Business

EMI brain X-ray systems for Japan

Thirty-three EMI-Scanner computerised brain X-ray systems valued at £7.4 million are to be supplied to Japan under the largest single order yet won for this equipment.

Orders for 32 of EMI's advanced diagnostic systems follow months of negotiations between the Japanese Ministry of Finance and representatives of Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co. Ltd. (TOSHIBA), the Japanese distributors of the EMI-Scanner, supported by staff of EMI Medical Ltd., which manufactures the EMI-Scanner at Hayes in Middlesex. A further order comes from the Niigata University, making 33 machines in all.

The contract, believed to be the largest for medical equipment ever gained by a UK company from Japan, was signed at a ceremony in Toshiba's head office in Tokyo.

Delivery of the EMI-Scanners will be phased over the next 12 months. Toshiba Medical Systems Ltd. will be responsible for installation, commissioning and maintenance of the systems, carrying out this work from some of their 60 service bases covering the whole of Japan.

With this Japanese order, the total number of systems ordered to date exceeds 340, together valued at over £55 million, of which well over £50 million is represented by export orders.

While initially the bulk of export orders for the system have been for medical institutions in North America, more recently orders from other countries have been accelerating rapidly. Installations or orders have now been recorded in every major European country, including five systems for West Germany. Sales to Australia (3), South Africa (3), Mexico (4) and important first orders gained in France, Yugoslavia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and elsewhere underline this trend.

Vehicular tunnel under Suez Canal

Sir William Halcrow and Partners of London have announced their appointment to design the first vehicular tunnel under the Suez Canal. Operations have already begun on site and full scale construction of the two-lane single carriageway driven section of the tunnel will follow further design work early in the new year.

A joint venture has been formed to carry out the construction work for the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction. The members of the joint venture are the Arab contractors, Costain International and Tarmac (Overseas) Ltd.

The crossing, which has recently been named the 'Ahmed Hamdi Tunnel', will be located near El Shatt, at the southern end of the Suez Canal. Its constrution cost has been estimated to be of the order of £30 million, and the tunnel is likely to be open to traffic by the end of 1978.

A £5 million Russian order for Rank Xerox

A contract worth £5 million has been signed in London by Mr. Shmelov with Mr. Kotomin of Technopromimport, the Soviet buying organisation, for the supply of a range of Rank Xerox copiers, high speed duplicators, microfilm printers and spares.

The equipment will be supplied through Technopromimport to industrial and commercial users as well as to government departments in the USSR over the next 12 months.

Gordon Planner, general manager, Eastern Export Operations, who signed for Rank Xerox, claimed that this was the largest single order placed with the company by the Technopromimport organisation since Rank Xerox started discussions with them in 1970.

First ICL 2980 computer exported from UK

The first ICL 2900 Series computer to leave the United Kingdom was shipped from Felixstowe in Suffolk to Europort in Holland recently, bound for the European Space Operations Centre (ESOC), part of the European Space Agency, at Darmstadt, near Frankfurt, West Germany.

The 2980 computer system, valued at £2.3 million, was despatched from International Computers' West Gorton factory in a fleet of six lorries. It was decided that installation and commissioning would be easier if the order code processor unit, which weighs 1¼ tons and measures 15 ft in length, was not broken down into modules but kept as one unit to facilitate crane lifting. A special transit trolley was constructed by the ICL packing manager and his team, and used to transport the unit.

In February this year, the European Space Research Organisation (now known as the European Space Agency) ordered two ICL systems valued at £4.5 million. The two computers – the second 2980 is due for delivery in mid-February next year – will provide a computing service for the Meteosat project which becomes operational when the European meteorological satellite is launched in June 1977.

British Steel first by air

The British Steel Corporation has scored a first with an urgent consignment of steel for Iran which it is delivering by air.

The order came from the Iranian Government and is for universal bearing piles for a dry dock extension to a naval repair yard at Bandar Abbas.

A total of 114 tonnes – rolled at the British Steel Corporation's mill at Lackenby in north east England – is now being delivered by air in four consignments. The last is scheduled to leave Stansted Airport on 6 November.

It is the first time steel of this type has travelled from Britain by air. Each of the 44 piles involved in the order is 19.5m in length and weighs 2.5 tonnes.

The air export forms part of continuing business placed through the Crown Agents for Iran. So far between 4,000 and 5,000 tonnes of similar material have been supplied by the Steel Corporation to Iran by sea.

Agro-industrial sugar project in Somalia

Booker McConnell has been invited by the Government of the Somali Democratic Republic to develop on a turnkey basis a major agro-industrial sugar project in the Middle Juba region of Somalia. The total cost of this development will be of the order of £28 million.

The project calls for a fully irrigated sugar estate with an ultimate size of 12,000 hectares, a 50/60,000 ton sugar factory capable of expansion to 100,000 tons of sugar a year and a distillery to process the molasses produced by the factory. Estate roads, housing for 1,200 families, necessary amenities and ancillary services will be included in the development.

The agricultural development of this project will be the responsibility of Bookers Agricultural and Technical Services, the management and technical services subsidiary of Booker McConnell, and the factory will be provided by Fletcher and Stewart of Derby, the sugar machinery manufacturing subsidiary of Booker McConnell.

European Community

International economic co-operation conference: Mr. Callaghan answers Commons' questions

Following the informal meeting of EEC Foreign Ministers in Lucca on 18-19 October, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, James Callaghan, answered questions in the Commons on Britain's claim for separate representation at the forthcoming Paris conference between industrialised and developing countries.

He pointed out that the meeting had provided an opportunity for an exchange of views between Community colleagues and that no decisions were taken. Mr. Callaghan also said that he had explained the British position that 'because of the broad range of subjects being discussed, we thought that Britain should be able to represent her point of view.'

He went on, 'We must try to reconcile all the interests. I am concerned as anyone else to see that the dialogue between the producing and consuming countries, which has now been extended, shall be successful.

'Since the original idea of the discussion on energy, three further substantive commissions have been brought in. The first is raw materials, on which it would be fair to say that we have a point of view which we put to the (Commonwealth) Prime Ministers in Jamaica. Secondly, there is development, on which we have a point of view. Thirdly, there is what is called in a large way financial affairs and financial questions. As Britain is still the second reserve centre in the world, it would be odd if I did not say that there was a British point of view that should be represented.

'Within those limitations it is important that we should try to make a success of all this, and I dare say we shall do so in the end.'

No compromise

A subsequent press report that Britain had approached its Community partners with a 'compromise formula' for the Paris conference, was denied in a statement issued by the Foreign Office on 24 October.

The statement added that the Secretary of State had made it clear, both in the Council of Ministers and to individual Governments, that Britain wished to be separately represented at the conference, that this remained Britain's position, and that this country had made no approach to other members of the Community.

Foreign Ministers of the Nine Member States pose for photographers before their meeting at Lucca, Italy, on 18-19 October. With them in the photograph are President of the Commission, Francois-Xavier Ortoli and the Danish Minister of Agriculture.

ACP/EEC Interim Committee: third meeting

The early implementation of certain provisions of the Lomé Convention from 1 July this year came under discussion at the third meeting of the ACP/EEC Interim Committee on 22 October. The Committee was set up by an exchange of letters on 28 February this year when the Lomé Convention was signed by the Community and the 46 African, Pacific and Caribbean states.

On the basis of reports submitted by the ACP/EEC Committees responsible for customs co-operation, trade co-operation, the stabilisation of export earnings, and sugar and industrial co-operation, the Interim Committee was able to establish that satisfactory progress was being made in the various sectors covered by the Convention.

On trade co-operation, the Committee discussed, inter alia, the Community's Generalised Preference Scheme for 1976, the request made by the ACP states concerning rum imported from the Bahamas, the presentation and defence of the Lomé Convention before the GATT, and the constitution of a Joint Permanent Group on bananas, which is provided for in Protocol 6 to the Lomé Convention.

The Interim Committee also took stock of the ratification procedures of the Convention, which have so far been completed in 26 ACP states and in one Community Member State (Denmark).

Steel: Commission calls for international action

In a statement issued on 23 October, the EEC Commission called for urgent international action within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the problems currently facing the steel industry.

Referring to the fall in production and deteriorating prices, which, it says, reflect the effects of world recession on this very sensitive sector of heavy industry, the Commission believes that concerted self-discipline in the conduct of international trade in steel would prevent a worsening of the situation until economic recovery creates a better outlook.

Peter Shore visits five European capitals for trade talks

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has been visiting five European capitals this week for wide-ranging talks on trade and economic subjects with Ministers and businessmen.

The visit has enabled him to discuss not only bilateral trade matters, but also EEC trade relations and other international topics.

The capitals he has been visiting are: Paris (Monday, 27 October), the Hague (Tuesday), Brussels (Wednesday), Rome (Thursday), and he is due in Bonn today (Friday).

One-third of UK trade

Britain's trade with these five Member States of the EEC makes up about one-third of this country's total trade with the world.

During their recent tour of UK ports, a delegation of European Parliamentarians visited the Port of Liverpool. They are pictured at S.3. roll on/roll off berth at the vast Royal Seaforth container terminal. The party of 12, led by Horst Seefeld of Germany, was accompanied by Mr. A. J. Smith, Secretary of the British Ports Association. In addition to touring the £50 million Royal Seaforth Dock complex, including the container and grain terminals, the delegation also visited the general cargo berths.

Road haulage permits: Community Quota for 1976

The Department of the Environment is now inviting applications for EEC road haulage permits for 1976.

The EEC Council of Ministers will be meeting to discuss the future of the Community Quota system in mid-December and the number of permits available for the United Kingdom will then be known. In order to avoid delay, applications are invited now so that any permits may be issued immediately the Council's decision is taken. They will be offered to the best users of 1975 EEC permits and, subject to availability, to other firms with extensive international experience demonstrated by their use during 1975 of their French, West German and Italian bilateral permits. It is important not to waste EEC permits, and only operators who feel they have adequate capacity are advised to apply.

Application forms may be obtained from International Road Freight Office, 36/42 Low Friar Street, Newcastle upon Tyne (tel. Newcastle 610031), and returned to the Newcastle office by 1 December. No applications will be accepted after that date. Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the Council meeting.

EEC permits are for 'hire or reward' operations only and for use with complete motor vehicles (NOT with unaccompanied trailers). One purpose of these permits is to facilitate multilateral tramping journeys within Member States of the EEC. They may also be used for bilateral journeys. Normally valid for a whole year and for an unlimited number of journeys, the permit must accompany the vehicle, allowing only one journey to be made at a time under one permit.

There has been no increase in the number of ECMT permits which allow access to the 18 Member States of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, and applications are not invited for these permits.

US Treasury withdraws EEC steel dumping investigation

In a statement issued by their spokesman, the EEC Commission have welcomed the US Treasury decision not to proceed with a countervailing investigation into Community steel products.

The Commission expressed delight at the US decision, which they considered 'fair-minded' and in harmony with the international practice of the GATT. They pointed out that one of the complaints involving a high volume of Community exports to the US had now been 'satisfactorily answered'.

The US Treasury had earlier issued a statement which announced their conclusion that the information and allegations contained in the US Steel petitions did not 'on their face' describe a bounty or grant and were, therefore, insufficient to warrant initiation of formal investigation. The Treasury had constantly over the years held that rebates or remissions of indirect taxes directly borne by exported products, are not bounties or grants within the meaning of the countervailing duty law. Value added taxes were, in their view, such indirect taxes.

A US Treasury investigation into the alleged dumping of Community car imports is still being conducted.

Foreign goods vehicle operators' licensing - new regulations

Regulations* exempting goods vehicle operators from the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man from the need to obtain an operator's licence when entering the United Kingdom were laid before Parliament on 23 October by John Gilbert, Minister for Transport.

The Regulations will also exempt operators from Poland and Portugal from operators' licensing requirements when the bilateral Road Transport Agreements already signed with these countries come into force. Operators from Portugal will be required to obtain a permit except for certain exempted operations.

The Regulations implement EEC Directive 130/75 on the liberalisation of combined road/rail transport within the Community. This has already been liberalised administratively since 1 October when the Directive entered into force.

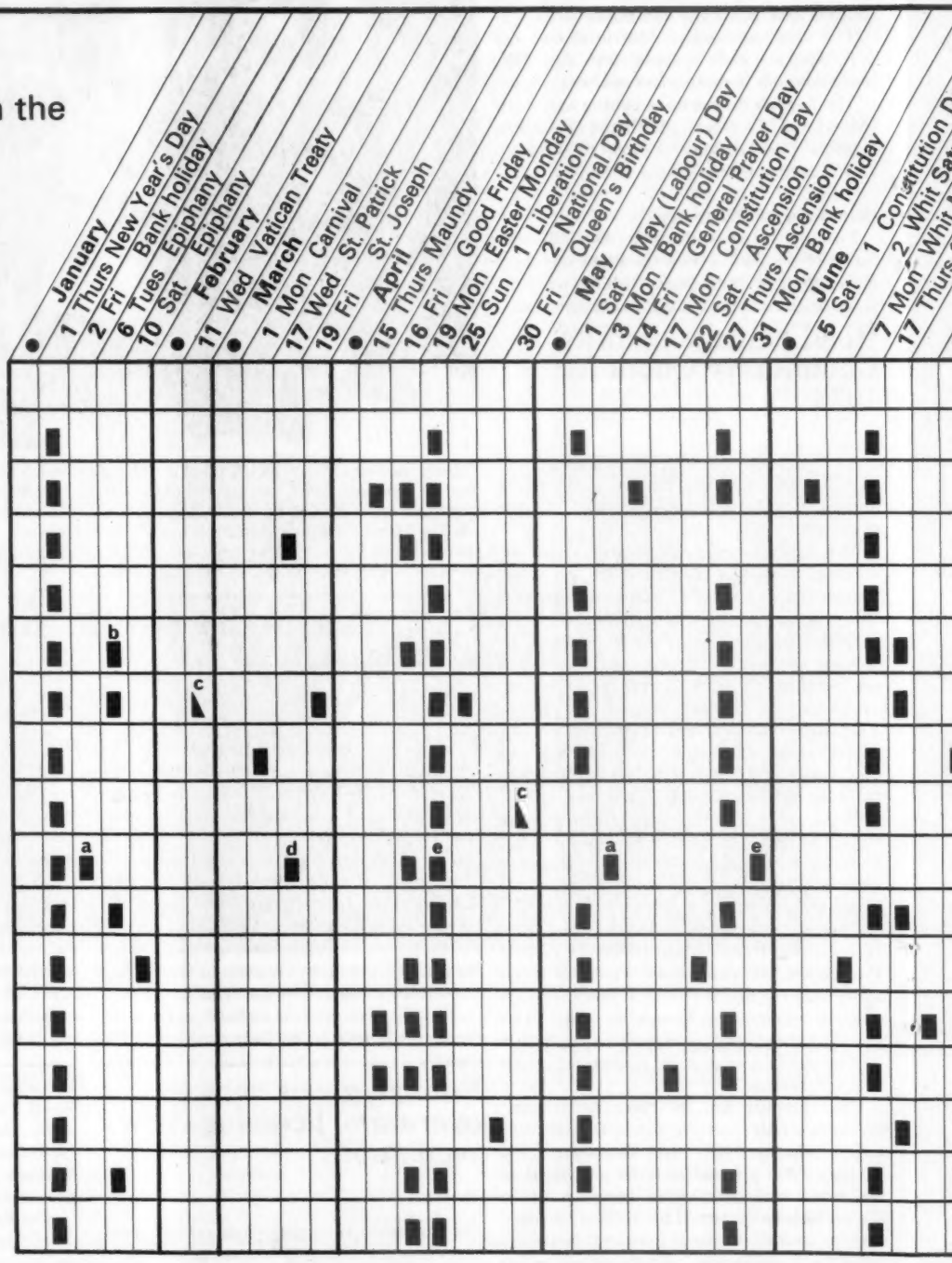
Although the Regulations will come into force on 13 November, the special provisions for Polish and Portuguese vehicles will not come into operation until dates to be announced later.

* The Goods Vehicles (Operators' Licences) (Temporary Use in Great Britain) (Amendment) Regulation 1975 SI 1975 No. 1713, HMSO, 11p.

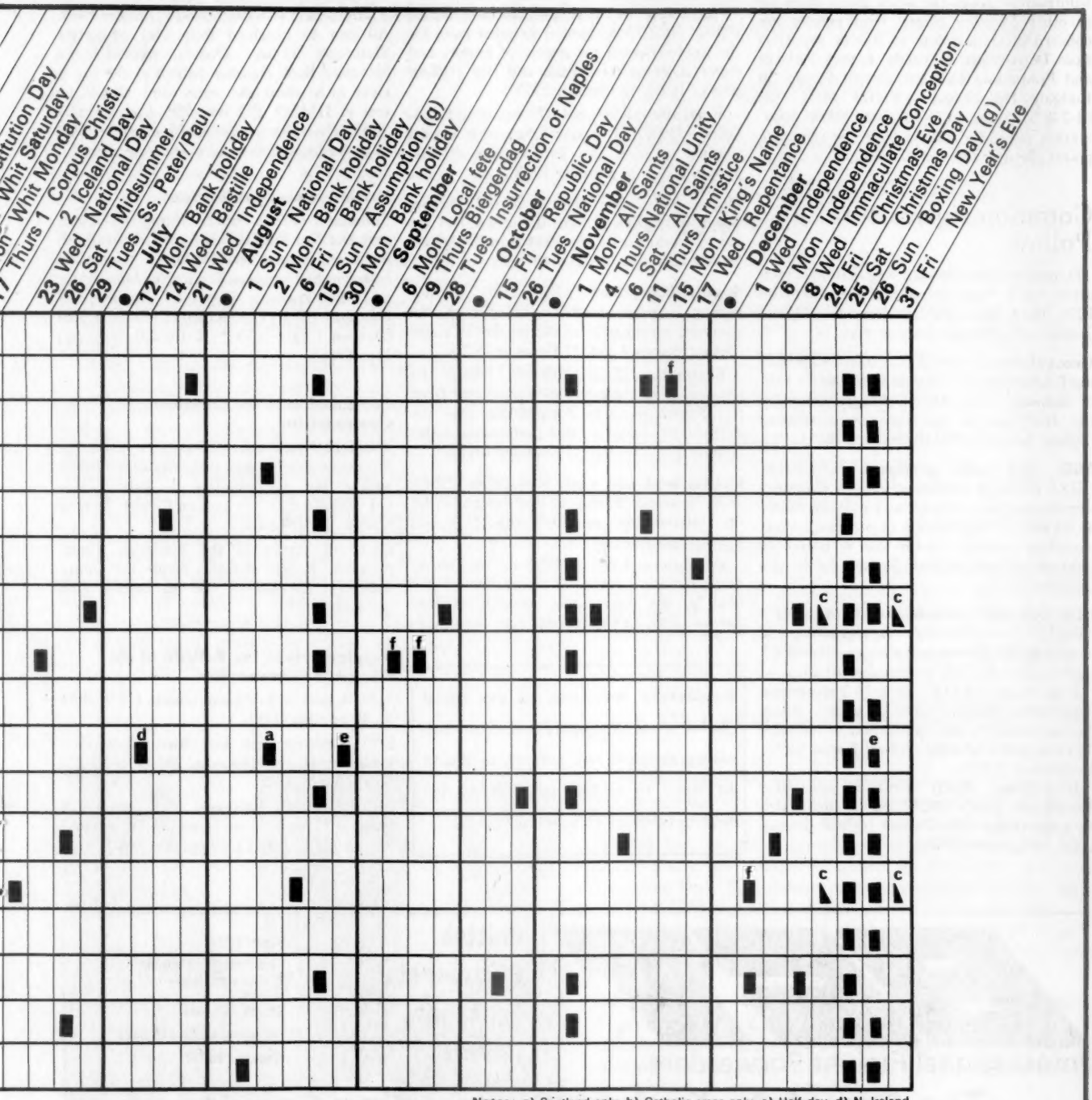
Europe

1976

Public holidays in the EEC and EFTA



EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines)



Notes: a) Scotland only. b) Catholic areas only. c) Half-day. d) N. Ireland only. e) Except Scotland. f) Not official but many shops and offices closed. g) It is likely that Assumption Day and Boxing Day will be celebrated on Monday 16 August and Monday 27 December respectively.

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other Member States' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 4174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference points given at the end of the item.

Common Agricultural Policy

The texts of the following Regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Regulation (EEC) 2638/75 amending Regulation 475/75 with regard to the rate of exchange to be applied in agriculture for the Irish pound and the pound sterling (*Official Journal* L269, 18 October 1975).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 2586/75 amending various Commission Regulations on milk and milk products, as regards the application of monetary compensatory amounts to the sale of butter at reduced prices (*Official Journal* L263, 11 October 1975).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 2599/75 providing for the granting of premiums for the private storage of olive oil (*Official Journal* L265, 14 October 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 2616/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 1204/72 laying down detailed rules for the application of the subsidy system for oil seeds (*Official Journal* L267, 16 October 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 2645/75 amending Regulation (EEC) 282/67 on detailed rules for intervention for oil seeds (*Official Journal* L269, 18 October 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 2648/75 fixing definitively the subsidy for colza and rape seed fixed provisionally since 1 February 1975 (*Official Journal* L269, 18 October 1975).

Cereals and rice. Regulation (EEC) 2607/75 amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) 2042/75 on special detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences for cereals and rice (*Official Journal* L266, 15 October 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 2644/75 repealing Regulation 719/67/EEC on fixing the export refunds on rice and broken rice (*Official Journal* L269, 18 October 1975).

Hops. Regulation (EEC) 2610/75 laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of the aid to producers for the 1974 harvest (*Official Journal* L267, 16 October 1975).

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 2623/75 completing Regulation (EEC) 3330/74 on the common organisation of the market in sugar (*Official Journal* L268, 17 October 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 2624/75 fixing the amounts applicable to raw cane sugar from the French overseas departments and the differential charge on raw preferential sugar (*Official Journal* L268, 17 October 1975).

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 2630/75 on the boning of beef bought-in by the intervention agencies (*Official Journal* L268, 17 October 1975).

Regulation (EEC) 2643/75 on the sale at prices fixed in advance of certain boned beef held by the intervention agencies (*Official Journal* L269, 18 October 1975).

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

Publications on the European Communities

Listed below are official publications on European Communities' matters issued during the period 10 September-21 October 1975. All can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Orders, quoting the Standard Book Number (which in the list is given in brackets after each title), should be sent to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. The price inclusive of postage is given in parenthesis at the end of each reference.

Parliamentary publications

Command Paper 6222. European Communities No. 121 (1975). Agreement extending the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and the Tunisian Republic. Brussels, 14 February 1975. [The Agreement entered into force on 1 July 1975.] (10 162220 1). 4 pp. 11p (17½p).

Commission of the European Communities

Practical Handbook of Social Security for Employed Persons and their Families moving within the Community. 1 July, 1973. (11 934987 6). 272 pp. and loose leaf in binder. £8.09 (£8.57).

Court of Justice of the European Communities. Report of Cases before the Court 1968. (11 934988 4). 508 pp. bound. £15 (£15.48).

Supplements to the Bulletin of the European Communities

5/75. Report on European Union. (11 934934 5). 42 pp. 60p (71p).

6/75. Developments and Raw Materials – Problems of the Moment. (11 934958 2). 46 pp. 90p (£1.01).

7/75. Towards European Citizenship. A Passport Union. The Granting of Special Rights. (11 934975 2). 30 pp. 60p (69p).

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Trade Information

Closer trade links with Brazil – Memorandum of Understanding signed

Wide-ranging consultations between the UK and Brazil, including economic and industrial matters, are expected as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding covering the whole spectrum of international relations signed in London on 21 October.

Foreign Secretary, James Callaghan, and Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, with whom will lie the main responsibilities for economic and industrial questions on the UK side, signed for the British Government and Senhor Azeredo da Silveira, Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, for Brazil.

In the trade sphere the Memorandum provides for bilateral consultations on a wide range of subjects, including future arrangements for commodities and raw materials; economic and industrial co-operation; the strengthening of commercial relations; participation in industrial development; and the facilitation of investment, banking and credit for the promotion of industry and commerce.

Constant close contact through diplomatic channels will be supplemented by meetings at senior official or Ministerial level as may be appropriate. *Ad hoc* study groups or working parties may be set up to help carry forward special projects in Britain, Brazil or third countries.

Among priority areas for industrial co-operation are: railways; steel plant; marine equipment and ports; the development of natural resources – including agriculture; electrical power generation and transmission; and development of Brazil's capital goods industry.

Details of UK trade with Brazil are:

£ million

	1973	1974	Jan.-Aug. 1975
UK exports to Brazil (mainly machinery, chemicals and transport equipment)	112	143	110
UK imports from Brazil (mainly sugar, coffee and minerals)	157	195	122

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, with Senhor Azeredo da Silveira, Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the Department of Trade headquarters.

Progress on anti-dumping investigations

Investigations completed

Pre-finished plywood: dowels and mouldings. The Department of Trade has completed its investigations into allegations that pre-finished plywood originating in Singapore and Taiwan and ramin dowels and mouldings originating in Singapore and Malaysia were being imported at prices which constituted dumping. It has concluded, in each case, that there is no evidence of dumping such as would justify the imposition of anti-dumping duties on these products.

Trade inquiries: tel. 01-215 5461 (plywood) and 01-215 5742 (dowels and mouldings).

New investigations

Saccharin. The Department is re-imposing anti-dumping duties on saccharin originating in Japan and the Republic of Korea with effect from 1 November 1975. The British producer has made a new application under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 alleging that saccharin from these sources is being imported at prices which constitute dumping and that as a result the British industry is suffering material injury. This application has been accepted for full investigation.

Trade inquiries: tel. 01-215 5758.

Anti-dumping duties were imposed in 1965 on imports from Japan and the Republic of Korea at rates of £0.0917/kg and £0.5511/kg, respectively. These duties are currently suspended but, pending completion of the investigation, the duties above are being re-imposed by an Order, the Anti-Dumping Duty (Temporary Suspension) (Revocation) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1714). Copies of this Order will shortly be available from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1 (price 5p) or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 (price 11½p).

Ladies' rubberised raincoats. The Department is extending to the Republic of Korea its current investigation into allegations that imports of ladies double- and single-texture rubberised cotton or rayon raincoats from Hong Kong are being made at prices which constitute dumping.

Trade inquiries: tel. 01-215 3876.

Dumper trucks. The Department has also accepted for full investigation an application under the Act alleging that dumper trucks are being imported from the USSR at prices which constitute dumping and that as a result the British industry is suffering material injury.

Trade inquiries: tel. 01-215 5461. (*continued overleaf*)

Multi-colour offset printing presses. The Department has also accepted for investigation an application for the imposition of anti-dumping duties under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969, on imports of multi-colour offset litho printing presses from Japan. These machines are sheet fed and are capable of printing a maximum sheet size of 480 × 660mm (19 in × 26 in) in two or four colours.

Trade inquiries: tel. 01-215 5759.

In the cases of saccharin, dumper trucks and multi-colour offset printing presses a statement of the applicants' claim will be supplied to interested parties who give an undertaking to treat the information in strict confidence. Any representations in connection with these applications, other than from the foreign suppliers with whom special arrangements will be made, should be submitted in writing not later than 14 November 1975 (in the case of printing presses 18 November). Such representations, in summarised form and without attribution to the source, may be passed to the applicants for comment. Those making the representations should stipulate any particular matters which they do not wish to be disclosed.

Request for copies of the statement, together with an undertaking in the terms set out above, should be sent in writing to General Division, Department of Trade, Room 348 (saccharin and dumper trucks) or Room 323 (printing presses), Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

The anti-dumping duties on saccharin are imposed by the Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties Order 1973 (SI 1973 No. 2037). Until 31 October 1975 they are suspended by the Anti-Dumping (Temporary Suspension) (No. 2) Order 1975.

Anglo-Polish Joint Commission meets in London

The fourth meeting of the Anglo-Polish Joint Commission took place in London from 20-24 October, under the co-chairmanship of Peter Preston, Deputy Secretary in the Department of Trade, and Stanislaw Dlugosz, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Shipping.

The Commission's annual meetings, which are held in London and Warsaw alternately, are occasions for reviewing the pattern and trends in Anglo-Polish trade and co-operation. This year's meeting examined the development of co-operation against the background of the Long Term Programme for economic, industrial, scientific and technical co-operation which was signed between the two countries last month.

A fuller account of the Commission's work will be published shortly by the East European Trade Council (tel. 01-930 6711).

Eric Deakins, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade (left), and Stanislaw Dlugosz, Polish Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Shipping, who led the Polish delegation at a meeting of the Anglo-Polish Joint Commission in London last week.

Economic co-operation with Saudi Arabia – Riyadh liaison office head appointed

The agreement on Economic Co-operation with Saudi Arabia which was signed on 22 October by James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, and HRH Prince Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, provides for the setting up of liaison offices in Riyadh and London. Mr. Shore, whose Department is responsible for implementing the agreement, has appointed Peter M. S. Corley, an Assistant Secretary in the Department, as head of the Riyadh office. Mr. Corley will be starting work in Riyadh early in the New Year.

Mr. Corley has for the past four years been closely involved in all aspects of developing the United Kingdom's commercial relations with Middle East countries and has specific responsibility for Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and the Gulf States within the Department's Middle East Division. During this period he has travelled widely in the region. He represents the Department on the Committee for Middle East Trade (COMET).

For the past 10 years he has been engaged in work on commercial policy and export promotion, during which he was for three years Commercial Secretary in the British Embassy in Brussels. His earlier career included periods in the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Transport. He has throughout been working in close touch with British industry and in recent years with companies seeking business abroad particularly in the major project field.

Separation of Ellice Islands from GEIC

On 1 October 1975 the Ellice Islands separated from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony to form a new dependent territory called Tuvalu. The remainder of the colony has taken the name Gilbert Islands. From 1 October to the end of the year, when the administrative headquarters of Tuvalu will be established on Funafuti; the two territories will share a common administration based on Tarawa. Inquiries: tel. 01-215 5321.

JAPAN DISSATISFIED WITH THE LIMITED RESULTS ACHIEVED THROUGH AGENTS AND DISTRIBUTORS?

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES await enterprising British manufacturers in the form of joint venture operations, wholly owned subsidiaries, branch sales operations and technological licence agreements in Japan. But in order to ensure that the best possible advantage is taken of such opportunities, it is absolutely essential to appoint a local representative possessing the necessary expertise and connections to act on your behalf. As Advisers and Consultants with years of experience of negotiations with the Japanese in the above sectors, we are pleased to offer our specialised services, which also include market research.

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Exports from the United Kingdom

This Notice cancels the Notice to Exporters of the 8 September 1970. It draws attention to the requirements of the Exchange Control Act 1947 relating to goods exported from the United Kingdom and to the procedures to be observed by exporters.

References in this Notice to the United Kingdom should be read to include the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

'Scheduled Territories' means the territories specified in Schedule 1 to the Exchange Control Act 1947 as amended from time to time by order of HM Treasury.

For exports from Jersey and Guernsey, references to Customs should be construed as references to the Agent of the Impôts and the Chief Revenue Officer respectively.

Copies of this Notice may be obtained from any bank or Collector of Customs and Excise.

Note. Special requirements apply to exports to Rhodesia, most of which are prohibited by export licensing; these requirements are set out in Appendix II to this Notice.

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General

1 This Notice relates to exports from the United Kingdom to ultimate destinations outside the Scheduled Territories. The Scheduled Territories at present comprise the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man), the Republic of Ireland and Gibraltar.

2 The Notice is intended to cover all the normal types of arrangements which you are likely to make. Please read it carefully.

3 Exports from the United Kingdom to the Scheduled Territories are exempt from Exchange Control. Exports to other destinations are subject to Exchange Control, the broad aim of which is to conserve the United Kingdom's gold and foreign currency reserves and to assist the balance of payments. So far as exports are concerned, the aim is to ensure that the United Kingdom benefits by the receipt of payments for the goods exported and that exports are not used as a means of transferring capital illegally in the form of goods. The special arrangements for Rhodesia set out in Appendix II result from the current political situation in that country.

4 Payment for exports should be obtained as soon as it is contractually due. It is an offence under the Exchange Control Act 1947 to waive or delay the receipt of payment due in foreign currency or sterling from an External Account unless special permission has been obtained from the Bank of England. If payment is to be made in foreign currency, you should, in your own interest, satisfy yourself that the currency which you propose to accept will be convertible into sterling, consulting your bank in advance in cases of doubt.

The general permission

5 HM Treasury have given a general permission for goods (excluding diamonds – see paragraph 11) to be exported from the United Kingdom to destinations outside the Scheduled Territories other than Rhodesia; the text is set out in Appendix I. Its effect is summarised in paragraph 6.

6 The export of goods (excluding diamonds) by way of gift is covered by the general permission if the fob value of the gift does not exceed £100. The export of goods (excluding diamonds – see paragraph 11) under a contract of sale is covered if:

(a) payment for them has been made or is to be made to a United Kingdom resident in 'the prescribed manner', ie payment in sterling from an External Account or payment in any foreign currency, except Rhodesian currency; 'the prescribed manner' for the purposes of this Notice includes any other manner permitted by the Treasury (eg International Money Order – see paragraph 12); and

(b) the credit extended does not exceed six months from the date of exportation or, if the goods are exported under a contract which is covered by Export Credits Guarantee Department insurance, the credit does not exceed such longer period as that Department have approved; and

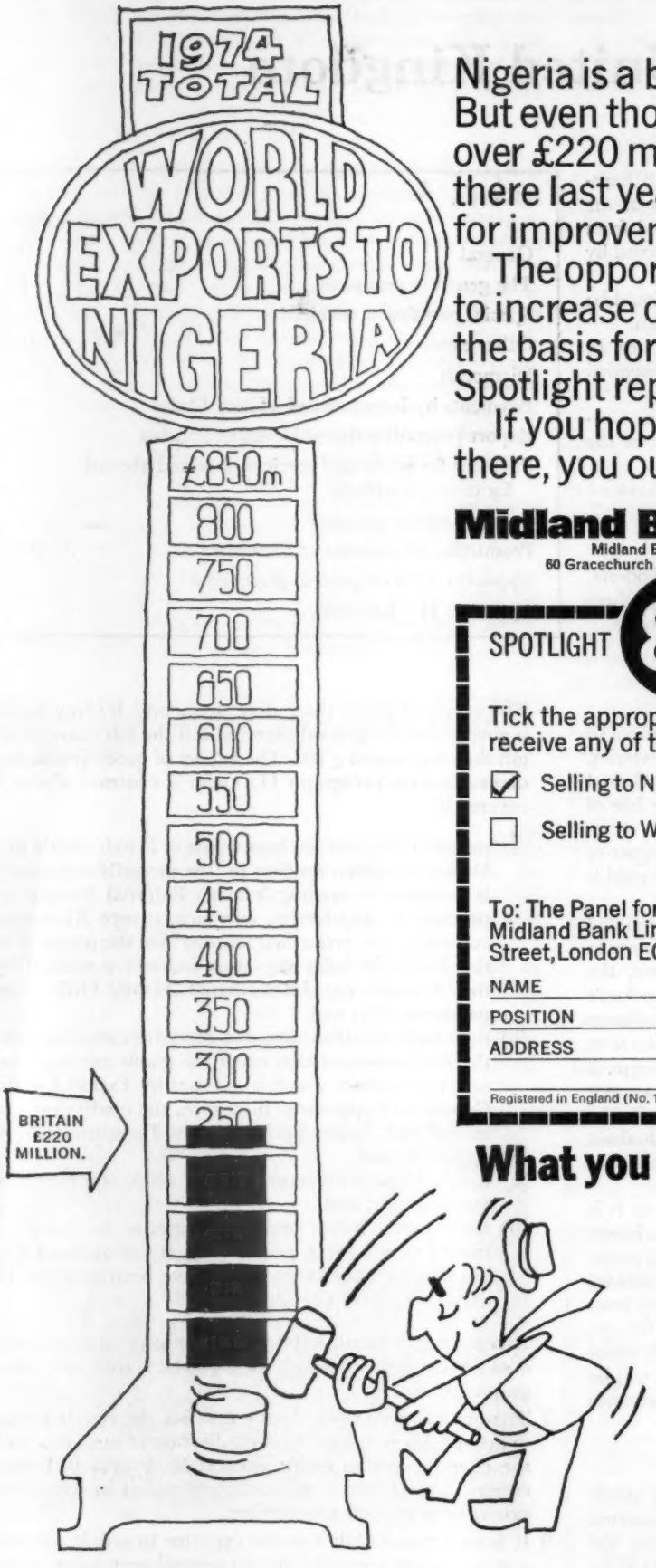
(c) the purchase price represents the whole consideration for the goods; and

(d) the exporter is not under-charging, ie he has contracted to sell for a price which is not substantially less than he might reasonably have been expected to obtain in all the circumstances.

Except for gifts worth £100 or less, the general permission does not cover goods which have not been sold (see paragraph 10).

7 The general permission does not affect the requirements under the Act in respect of the collection of sums due and the offer for sale to an Authorised Bank of any foreign currencies; nor does it affect the obligation to obtain an export licence where appropriate.

8 It is your responsibility as the exporter to satisfy yourself that the export is covered by the general permission or by paragraph 10 or, if it is not, to apply for special permission.



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What you don't know can hurt you.

Special permission required

9 You require special permission before you may export goods which are not covered by the general permission or by the terms of paragraph 10. Applications for special permission should normally be made on Form SPE, which should be obtained from your bank; they may have to submit your application to the Bank of England (you are not required to present this form to Customs at the place of exportation, but you should keep it to show to Customs if they require it – see paragraph 16). Examples of the kind of export transactions which require special permission are as follows:

(a) **Abnormal terms of payment**
If you wish to export goods (excluding gifts worth £100 or less) where:

(i) you will not be providing for payment in the prescribed manner [see paragraph 6(a) above], or
(ii) you will not be providing for the full consideration to be received in money, or
(iii) you will not be conforming to the requirements of paragraph B (iii) of the Treasury general permission, which relates to pricing.

(b) **Extended credit**
If you wish to give credit beyond six months from the date of export in respect of goods, unless they are exported under a contract which is covered by Export Credits Guarantee Department insurance. Your application should give an explanation and state the extended period of credit required. In such cases, the approval of the Bank of England should be obtained before any contract providing for extended credit terms is concluded.

(c) **Goods on consignment for sale**
If you wish to export goods on consignment for sale through an agent abroad. Permission may be given for individual consignments or, if the nature and volume of your business warrant it, a continuing permission may be given. In the latter case application should be made through your bank to the Bank of England by letter.

(d) **Goods on hire or lease**
If you wish to export goods on hire or lease.

(e) **Gifts of goods of a value exceeding £100 fob**
If you wish to export a gift of goods of a value exceeding £100 fob. The application should describe the circumstances.

Other exports

10 Except in the case of the export of diamonds and any exports to Rhodesia, permission is hereby given for the export of:

(a) samples and goods for exhibition or advertising purposes – these cover bona fide trade or commercial travellers' samples or goods for exhibition or other advertising purposes supplied without payment, with the object of obtaining export orders;
(b) replacements and short shipments – this covers goods supplied without charge to replace previous exports rejected by the purchaser, or damaged, lost or destroyed in transit, or to complete previous short shipments;
(c) goods being re-exported after importation for modification or repair;
(d) goods exported to a prospective buyer on sale or return terms providing that either payment is due in the prescribed manner within six months or the goods will be re-imported within that period;
(e) other goods exported temporarily but which will be re-imported within six months, eg goods exported for modification or repair;
(f) any consignment not exceeding in value £300 of goods which have been bought with sterling by a person resident outside the Scheduled Territories while temporarily visiting the United Kingdom.

Diamonds

11 Diamonds are not covered by the general permission or by the permission given in paragraph 10. In the absence of special permission granted by the Bank of England, diamonds are prohibited exports unless the Customs are satisfied:

(a) that payment for them has been made to a United Kingdom resident in the prescribed manner [see paragraph 6(a)] or is to be so made within six months of their exportation; and
(b) that the amount of the payment which has been or is to be made represents a return which is satisfactory in the national interest.

In addition the Customs have a discretion to permit the export of diamonds (even if special permission has not been obtained) if they are satisfied that the diamonds being exported are samples or replacements or that they are being re-exported after importation for modification or that they are being exported temporarily or for sale or return. The Commissioners of Customs and Excise require that all diamonds, whatever the terms of the transaction, should be exported through certain channels; inquiries about this should be addressed to GCC4, HM Customs and Excise, Kent House, Upper Ground, London SE1 9PS. This requirement is also imposed by the Bank of England in connection with every special permission.

Payments by International Money Order

12 International Money Orders issued in a country outside the Scheduled Territories other than Rhodesia (or British Money Orders issued on instructions from postal authorities in such a country) may be accepted in payment for exports (instead of sterling from an External Account or a foreign currency other than Rhodesian currency).

Export proceeds reduced by disbursements

13 If you necessarily incur expenses in a foreign currency in respect of a particular consignment, these expenses may be met from the proceeds of sale of that consignment and the amount of foreign currency remitted to the United Kingdom correspondingly reduced.

Payment for goods and services obtained abroad for export contracts

14 If you wish to enter into an export or supply contract outside the Scheduled Territories which requires you to make payment to a third party resident outside those Territories for goods or services supplied by him in connection with the contract you should first consult your bank, who may need to seek Bank of England permission for you to make these payments. Approval will normally be given provided at all times the total of payments to parties resident outside the Scheduled Territories in respect of the contract in question has already been covered by total receipts from your non-resident buyer. This is in order to protect the balance of payments from an adverse cash flow, albeit a temporary one.

Forward exchange cover

15 If you quote prices for your goods in foreign currency,

remember that the forward exchange market will give you a measure of protection from fluctuating exchange rates. You should seek advice from your bank.

Production of evidence to Customs

16 Where you have obtained a special permission for a particular consignment of goods, or where you are exporting goods under a contract which is covered by Export Credits Guarantee Department insurance, you should retain the relative authority or evidence of approval of the Export Credits Guarantee Department as you may be required to produce such documentation to Customs at a later date.

Bank of England
28 October 1975

APPENDIX I

The general permission

A The Treasury, in exercise of their powers under Sections 23 and 37 of the Exchange Control Act 1947, and for the purposes of that Act, hereby give general permission for the exportation of goods (excluding diamonds) to any destination (not being a destination in Southern Rhodesia) outside the Scheduled Territories* by way of gift on condition that the fob value of any such gift does not exceed £100.

B The Treasury, in the exercise of the said powers and for the said purposes, hereby further give general permission for the exportation of goods (excluding diamonds) to any destination (not being a destination in Southern Rhodesia) outside the Scheduled Territories* on condition that:

(i) payment of the purchase price for those goods has at the date of their exportation already been made to a person resident in the United Kingdom in such manner as may from time to time be prescribed† under the said Section 23 in relation to goods of that class or description exported to that destination (or in any other manner permitted by the Treasury) or is to be so made within six months after that date (or, in the case of goods exported under a contract which is covered by Export Credits Guarantee Department insurance, within such longer period as the said Department have approved); and

(ii) the purchase price of the goods represents the whole of the consideration received or receivable therefor; and

(iii) the purchase price of the goods is not substantially less than the price which an exporter from the United Kingdom might reasonably have been expected (regard being had to the terms of the transaction) to obtain for them for export to that destination at the date they were contracted to be sold.

C In this general permission reference to the Act includes reference to the Act as extended by the Exchange Control (Channel Islands) Order 1947.‡

D The permissions given in paragraphs A and B above are subject to the condition that in any case where the Treasury so directs they shall not apply.

E In this general permission 'person' includes firm or body corporate, 'destination' means ultimate destination, 'Scheduled Territories' has the meaning ascribed to it by Section 1 of the Act and references to 'the United Kingdom' shall be deemed to include references to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

F This general permission shall take effect on 8 September 1970 and with effect from that date revokes and replaces the previous general permission§ granted to exporters by the Treasury in the exercise of the said powers.

H.M. Treasury
8 September 1970

* The Scheduled Territories at present comprise the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man), the Republic of Ireland and Gibraltar.

† The manner of payment currently prescribed for every class or description of goods exported to any destination outside the Scheduled Territories other than Rhodesia is payment in sterling from an External Account or payment in any foreign currency except Rhodesian currency: payment may not be accepted from a Rhodesian Sterling Account without special permission from the Bank of England. Exports to Rhodesia need specific permission (see Appendix II).

‡ S.R. & O. 1947/2034.

§ The latest previous general permission (now superseded was that given on the 28 September 1967.

APPENDIX II — Rhodesia

Introduction

1 Exports from the United Kingdom to destinations in Rhodesia are subject to the provisions of the Southern Rhodesia (United Nations Sanctions) (No. 2) Order 1968. Generally export licences are required, although there are certain minor exceptions. The range of goods for which the Department of Trade issues licences is restricted but where an export is permitted it is subject to special Exchange Control arrangements.

2 The Exchange Control position is as follows:

(i) Rhodesia is a prescribed territory for the purpose of Section 23 of the Exchange Control Act 1947;

(ii) sterling accounts of residents of Rhodesia with Authorised Banks in the United Kingdom are subject to special restrictions;

(iii) the Treasury general permission does not apply to exports to Rhodesia;

(iv) goods may be exported to destinations in Rhodesia only if they are covered by a specific permission given by or on behalf of the Treasury, or if the Commissioners of Customs and Excise* are satisfied:

(a) that payment for the goods has already (before the goods are exported) been made to a person resident in the United Kingdom* in foreign currency other than Rhodesian currency and

(b) that the amount of the payment that has been made is such as to represent a return for the goods which is in all the circumstances satisfactory in the national interest.

Procedure

3 With some minor exceptions, for any consignment of goods valued at more than £20 the exporter is required to complete a Form CD7; copies of the form may be obtained from Collectors of Customs and Excise. The form should then be submitted to an Authorised Bank in the United Kingdom, who, except where no payment is involved, is required to certify that payment in full has been received either in accordance with paragraph 2 (iv) (a) or in sterling. Where no payment is involved or payment has been received in sterling, the form will be forwarded to the Bank of England for authorisation. If approval is given, the Bank of England will endorse the form accordingly.

4 Unless the value of the consignment is £20 or less (see

* For exports from the Channel Islands the authorities to be satisfied are, in relation to Jersey, the Agent of the Impots and, in relation to Guernsey, the Chief Revenue Officer, and payment must have been made to a person resident in the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).

paragraph 7) or the goods are to be sent by post (see paragraph 5) the goods must be pre-entered to Customs and the certified or authorised Form CD 7 produced to Customs at that time.

Exports by post

5 Where goods are exported by post, the certified or authorised Form CD 7 must be placed in an envelope marked 'Form CD 7 No. —' which must be attached to the package in such a way as to be readily detachable. The outer cover of every postal package for which a form is furnished must similarly be clearly marked 'Form CD 7 No. —'. Where a single form covers a batch of parcels, the envelope containing the form must be marked '— parcels Nos. — refer' and each parcel must bear its number and be marked 'one of the batch of — parcels covered by Form CD 7 No. —.'

Changes of fact

6 Any changes of circumstances affecting the facts declared, occurring after the Form CD 7 has been lodged with Customs, should be notified to GCC4, H.M. Customs and Excise, Kent House, Upper Ground, London, SE1 9PS.

Consignments of not more than £20

7 If the value of a consignment is £20 or less, pre-entry and completion of a Form CD7 are not required but exporters should obtain a licence and receive payment in full in accordance with paragraph 2 (iv) (a) before the goods are shipped, unless they constitute a genuine gift free of payment.

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1518: Imports of textiles from Singapore – revised arrangements

Note: The arrangements set out in this Notice supersede the existing quota arrangements for textiles from Singapore.

The Community has negotiated and initialled an Agreement with Singapore on trade in textiles for each of the calendar years 1975, 1976 and 1977. The Agreement provides for voluntary restraint to keep at agreed levels exports to the Community of certain textile products intended for domestic consumption. Pending announcement of Community legislation to conclude the Agreement its provisions are being operated *de facto* as set out in the following paragraphs. Should the subsequent legislation result in any change in the provisions outlined here however, a further Notice to Importers will be issued.

Scope of the Agreement and quantitative levels to be applied under Community arrangements. The textile items covered by the Agreement and the levels to be adhered to by Singapore in respect of exports to the United Kingdom are set out in the Annex to this Notice. Account will be taken of the amount of goods already exported from Singapore in 1975. The Singaporean authorities will administer the quotas by issuing certificates of origin endorsed with an export authorisation to Singaporean exporters for onward transmission direct to UK importers. These export licences/certificates of origin, together with a completed form ILB/A, should be sent be the importer to Import Licensing Branch who will issue import licences up to the appropriate overall quota limit.

Existing UK restrictions on textiles from Singapore that are not affected by the Community arrangements. Interim arrangements pending completion of the Community arrangements for imports of woven cotton textiles from Singapore for the period of 1 January to 30 September 1975 were set out in Notices to Importers Nos. 1474 and 1491. Cotton yarn and some cotton textiles whose levels of export to the UK are currently restrained are not, however, covered by the EEC-Singapore Agreement. The existing import arrangements for these goods are unaffected by the EEC arrangements and the licensing requirements remain effective for the time being. A further announcement about future quota levels and import arrangements will be made as soon as possible.

Imports for re-export. Imports of restricted textiles from Singapore will not be set off against the quotas if they are re-exported *outside the EEC* in the same state or after limited processing. The general import licensing arrangements for restricted textiles re-exported from the UK are set out in Notice to Importers No. 1441.

UK import surveillance. In addition to the textiles covered by this Notice, most other textiles from Singapore and other non-EEC countries are subject to UK surveillance arrangements. Descriptions of these goods and the licensing arrangements are set out in Notices to Importers Nos. 1484 and 1502.

Inquiries to Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 271.

Textiles originating in Singapore – UK quota levels under Community arrangements

Tariff heading	Description of goods		UK quota levels 1975	1976	1977
ex 61.01	Men's and boys' outer garments: trousers, jeans, breeches and the like	1,000 pairs	503	592	690
ex 61.02	Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments: trousers, jeans, breeches and the like, except divided skirts				

No. 1519: Imports of textiles from Macao – revised arrangements

Note: The arrangements set out in this Notice supersede the existing quota arrangements for textiles from Macao.

The Community has negotiated and initialled an Agreement with Macao on trade in textiles for the period 1 October 1975 to 31 December 1976 and the calendar year 1977. The Agreement provides for voluntary restraint to keep at agreed levels exports to the Community of certain textile products intended for domestic consumption. Pending announcement

of Community legislation to conclude the Agreement its provisions are being operated *de facto* as set out in the following paragraphs. Should the subsequent legislation result in any change in the provisions outlined here, however, a further Notice to Importers will be issued.

Scope of the Agreement and quantitative levels to be applied under Community arrangements. The textile items covered by the Agreement and the levels to be adhered to by Macao in respect of exports to the United Kingdom are set out in the Annex to this Notice. Account will be taken of the amount of goods already exported from Macao since 1 October 1975. The Macanese authorities will administer the quotas by issuing to Macanese exporters Certificates of Origin endorsed to the effect that the consignment has been debited to the agreed ceiling for export to the EEC. These certificates will be sent on to UK importers who should submit them, together with a completed form ILB/A, to Import Licensing Branch, who will issue import licences up to the appropriate overall quota limit.

Existing UK restrictions on textiles from Macao that are not affected by the Community arrangements. Interim arrangements pending completion of the Community arrangements for imports of woven cotton textiles from Macao for the period 1 January to 30 September 1975 were set out in Notices to Importers Nos. 1474 and 1491. Cotton yarn and some cotton textiles whose levels of export to the UK are currently restrained are not, however, covered by the EEC-Macao Agreement. The existing import arrangements for these goods are unaffected by the EEC arrangements and the licensing requirements remain effective for the time being. A further announcement about future quota levels and import arrangements will be made as soon as possible.

Imports for re-export. Imports of restricted textiles from Macao will not be set off against the quotas if they are re-exported *outside the EEC* in the same state or after limited processing. The general import licensing arrangements for restricted textiles re-exported from the UK are set out in Notice to Importers No. 1441.

UK import surveillance. In addition to the textiles covered by this Notice, most other textiles from Macao and other non-EEC countries are subject to UK surveillance arrangements. Descriptions of these goods and the licensing arrangements are set out in Notices to Importers Nos. 1484 and 1502.

Inquiries to Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644, ext. 271.

Annex

Textiles originating in Macao – UK quota levels under Community arrangements

Tariff heading	Description of goods		UK quota levels Oct 1975-Dec 1976	1977
ex 61.01 ex 61.02	Men's and boys' outer garments: trousers, jeans, breeches and the like Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments: trousers, jeans, breeches and the like except divided skirts	1,000 pieces	256	408

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemption from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and *will remain in operation until the date shown in column 4 below* or for such shorter period as may be justified.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 14 November 1975.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
20.04	Cut mixed peel	As in previous column	30 June 1977	G/T 15751
28.30	Aluminium chloride, anhydrous	As in previous column	30 June 1977	G/T 15662
29.35	2-[4-(1-Oxoisoindolin-2-yl)phenyl] propionic acid	Indoprofen (K4277)	30 June 1977	G/T 15666

REVISED DEFINITION: Interested parties will wish to know that the definition for Toluenesulphonamide, mixed isomers, having a melting point not greater than 110° Centigrade (29.36) is to be revised as follows: Toluenesulphonamide, mixed isomers, containing not less than 50 per cent by weight and not more than 60 per cent by weight of toluene-4-sulphonamide.

GDR Engineering Week in Britain

The German Democratic Republic is holding a one-week series of talks on GDR technology in London, from 10-14 November. The talks to be given by scientists and technical experts from industry and research organisations in the GDR, will cover GDR developments in machine tools, textile machinery, printing machinery, measuring and surveying instruments, plastics processing, licences for building industry techniques, etc.

The whole venture is almost certainly the largest promotion of this type ever mounted in Britain by any of the socialist countries. The object is to give British industry a clearer impression of the levels of technology developed in the GDR in these industries and to help diversify Anglo/GDR trade over a wider range of products.

The last two years have seen a good overall growth in our trade with the GDR: UK exports to the GDR grew from £13.7 million in 1973 to £39.1 million in 1974, and UK imports from £26.3 million to £44.6 million.

During the same week a number of representatives of the Foreign Trade Enterprises, which are responsible for all import and export business in the GDR, will visit Britain for talks with British firms.

The programme of lectures has been organised by the GDR Chamber of Foreign Trade and all the lectures will be given at the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, tel. 01-248 4444. Firms interested in receiving the full programme can obtain it from the London Chamber, the information point for the Engineering Week.

Tariff and Trade Notices

France

Benzoic acid, sodium benzoate and potassium benzoate in beverages. An arrêté in the French *Journal Officiel*, 5 October 1975, sets out the use of benzoic acid, sodium benzoate and potassium benzoate as preservatives in certain beverages. They are allowed in non-alcoholic beverages of 'soda' type at the maximum dosage of 160mg/litre calculated in benzoic acid, provided that in these beverages the strength of carbonic anhydride is above 4.7g/litre and that the acidity corresponds to a pH less than or equal to 3.

The total quantity of benzoic acid and its salts, in milligrammes per litre, must be indicated on the labels of beverages ready for sale, following the EEC numeration of these preservatives.

This arrêté took effect on 5 October 1975. Copies of the French text can be sent on request or seen at Export House. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 423/7174/408/482.

Scotch whisky. In consequence of an Anglo-French Exchange of Letters concerning the protection of Scotch whisky imported into France, the French authorities will, from 10 November 1975, require the production of certificates (two copies) of age and origin for such consignments at the port of importation.

A new Customs document, Form C & E 94G, has accordingly been introduced for this purpose and is obtainable from the UK Customs and Excise warehouse of exportation. This form must be completed by the exporter and certified by Customs. The official certificate that the statements made on the form are correct is obtainable on payment of the usual fee.

Exporters who consider that all or part of an export consignment may, whatever the original foreign country of destination, ultimately be imported into France, are strongly advised to obtain the certificate on release of the goods from the UK bonded warehouse since the French authorities have stated that they will not accept any form of retrospective certification. Inquiries: HM Customs and Excise, Kings Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE.

Belgium

Price control regulations: correction. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 17 October 1975, incorrectly stated that prices were fixed at levels prevailing at 30 September 1975. The following amended notice is published in replacement:

The *Montieur Belge* 188, 30 September 1975, published a decree dated 26 September 1975, extending from 30 September until 31 December 1975, the decree of 5 May 1975 which fixes prices at levels prevailing on 30 April 1975. Copies of the decree (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/477.

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Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Denmark

Ready-packed food. The National Food Institute has issued guidelines on the way in which the contents of ready-packed foods should be described. While not compulsory, the NFI has said that it would prefer all Danish manufacturers to use them. It is suggested that it would be advisable for British exporters to follow the guidelines where possible, as Danish purchasers, becoming used to seeing items labelled in this way, might reject those which did not comply. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7174/408/482.

Norway

Textile products: marking and labelling. The Norwegian Department of Consumer Affairs and Administration has released details of compulsory new regulations on the fibre marking and care protection labelling of textiles which are due to come into force on 1 January 1977. Care labels must also be applied to some non-textile garments where special care is required for cleaning, pressing, drying, bleaching or dry cleaning. Unofficial translations of these regulations are available on request from OTAR ext. 458/461.

Portugal

Price control – fixed profit margins. The following items have been made subject to the system of fixed profit margins established by decree law 329-A/74 of 10 July 1974:

Decree-law 552/75 of 13 September 1975	Parts and accessories for motor vehicles
Decree-law 562/75 of 17 September 1975	Bearings for motor vehicles
Decree-law 567/75 of 19 September 1975	Agricultural machinery and tools
Decree-law 570/75 of 20 September 1975	Light and heavy motor vehicles

In addition, the following goods are now subject to controlled maximum prices under the same law:

Despacho of 16 September 1975	Pasteurised milk in the Azores

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Fabrics: tariff amendment. Portuguese *Diario Do Governo* No. 227, 1 October 1975, published decree-law 555/75 amending the tariff under Brussels Nomenclature heading 59.17. Goods previously classified under subheading 59.17.11 to 59.17.18 will now be classified under subheading 59.17.12 to 59.17.19. A new subheading 59.17.11 is established to read as follows:

Fabrics not specified, and bonded fibre fabrics for use in machinery and plant:
59.17.11 Suitable for the manufacture of typewriter ribbons
The following note is added to this subheading:
Note: This subheading covers only fabrics of a kind suitable for use as typewriter ribbons and imported by manufacturers of typewriter ribbons. Further, such fabrics may only be classified under the present subheading if, in the opinion of the General Inspectorate of Agricultural and Industrial Products, they cannot be produced economically in Portugal. The use of the fabrics for another purpose than that stipulated above shall be considered as an attempt to evade the payment of the duties which would have been applicable thereto had they not been classified under the present subheading. The enterprise concerned shall record the quantities imported and the purpose for which used in a special register, and shall supply the Customs with all details necessary to the verification of use.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Malta

Import licensing control. The Malta *Government Gazette*, 14 October 1975, announced that, with immediate effect, the following items would be included in the list of goods which require a specific import licence:

Aerosols

Cannons, brass (this item is listed under the heading 'Metal manufactures')

Oil, edible whether crude or refined other than in containers not exceeding one gallon capacity. (This item is substituted for the item, 'Oil edible, in containers exceeding one gallon capacity')

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

Greece

New machinery: duty reduced. The Greek press of 18 September 1975 reported the Ministry of Industry's Circular 39626/3640/13.9.75 which states that the validity of expired decree 791/70 is to be extended. This decree enables industrial enterprises which have been in operation for more than five years to obtain a reduction of 50 per cent on import duty for new machinery to be used in modernisation of industrial and handycraft installations. In the meantime, temporary measures are being taken to allow eligible enterprises to benefit from the provision of Decree 791/70. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 439.

United Arab Emirates

Pharmaceutical regulations. The import of pharmaceutical producs is now subject to prior registration with the Ministry of Health. Pharmaceuticals not listed on the Ministry of Health register cannot be imported into the United Arab Emirates. The responsibility for the completion of registration formalities rests with the manufacturer and his agent. Details of Ministry of Health requirements are available to British exporters on request. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7062/475.

Egypt

Paper: resumption of import. The Ministry of Trade in Cairo has announced the resumption of the import of paper under the following conditions:

1 The import of paper is restricted to those kinds mentioned in lists annexed to the Parallel Market Law.
2 The import of paper which had been held up owing to the ban will now be allowed in.
3 The importer can import direct through the customs without an import permit quantities of paper up to the value of LE.5000.
4 The Import Facilities Committee before issuing approval must confirm that the applicant has bought an equivalent quantity of paper from the State importer at the agreed prices.

the INTERNATIONAL BANK

In London with sister institutions — the Arab Bank (Overseas) Limited in Zurich and Geneva — the Arab Bank (Nigeria) Limited in Lagos, Kano and Apapa—Associates UBAE (Union de Banques Arabes et Europeennes) in Luxembourg and Frankfurt. UBAF (Union de Banques Arabes et francaise) in Paris, UBAN (The Arab Japanese Finance Co Ltd) in Hong Kong; branches throughout the Arab world and correspondents world wide, the Arab Bank provides a complete international banking service.

the LOCAL BANK

The Arab Bank has branches in Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Bahrain, Dubai, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Ras Alkhaimah, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah, Tunisia, Yemen Arab Republic

the ARAB BANK

General Management: Amman — Established 1930

Capital & Reserves	17,120,000 Jordan Dinars
Deposits	276,100,615 Jordan Dinars
Total Assets	452,162,130 Jordan Dinars

As at December 31st, 1974

ARAB BANK LIMITED
EMPIRE HOUSE, ST. MARTIN'S LE GRAND, LONDON EC1P 1DR
Telephone 01-606 7801 Telex 884359
Cables Bankarabi London EC1

5 Paper consignment will not be cleared through the Customs unless a certificate proving that the importer has drawn an equivalent quantity from the State importer at the prices agreed with the Printing Chamber is produced.
6 The quantities of paper drawn from the State company must be equivalent to those imported according to quantity and not to kind.

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Nigeria

Clearance of goods from ports. Telegraphic information has been received from our High Commission in Lagos to the effect that any consignment larger than 25 tons must be cleared immediately on arrival at both airport and seaport. If not cleared within a few days of arrival consignments will be returned. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 3064/3338.

Zambia

Fourth quarter quotas. The Zambian Government has issued tough decrees which forbid importers to bring in several items of luxury goods, including watches, record-players and cosmetics, during the fourth import quarter. In addition, all meat preparations, fish preparations, except for infants, prepared cereals, juices, soups and peanut butter are considered to be luxury imports, and are listed as being restricted.

Priority in the fourth quarter is given to raw materials and spare parts, packaging materials are given lowest priority. All importers have been informed that they can no longer import any kind of commodity which is also locally produced. These items will include: finished blankets, radios and television sets, finished clothing, batteries and accumulators, and asbestos articles. In addition importers will not be allowed to bring in goods which are a monopoly of the National Import and Export Corporation, the Dairy Produce Board, Zambia Fishing and Marketing Corporation, National Milling, Zambia Sugar Co., Tobacco Board and Zambia Steel and Building Supplies.

A circular accompanying foreign exchange application forms for the fourth quarter, states that only one model of 10 passenger cars listed will be allowed into the country. The cars listed are: Honda, Toyota, Datsun, Cortina, Marina, Peugeot, Renault, Volkswagen and Holden. We do not at present know the name of the fourth car on the list. In place of commercial vehicles, under 3 tons, a total of 22 models will still be imported into the country. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473.

Ban on COD parcels. Further to the notice in last week's *Trade and Industry*, information has now been received that COD parcels already en route to Zambia will be returned to the senders. The measures have been taken by the Zambian authorities as part of a tightening of exchange control restrictions, and are expected to continue until the price of copper improves and until the end of the current copper routing problems. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5794.

Burundi

Document for exports. Burundi is a signatory of the ACP/EEC Lomé Convention. Under this Agreement the EEC gives tariff preferences to products imported from the ACP states on a non-reciprocal basis. The authorities in Burundi are understood to be prepared, until 31 December 1975, to extend to the new EEC Member States the tariff preferences given to the original Member States under the Yaoundé Convention. As a consequence they are demanding the production of forms EUR1 for imports from the UK.

As a result of the Department of Trade's concern that failure to comply with a temporary requirement of this nature might lead to a loss of exports, HM Customs and Excise are prepared, in these exceptional circumstances, to issue forms EUR 1 for goods exported direct to Burundi that satisfy the origin requirements described in Customs Notice 825.

Forms EUR 1 may be obtained from any Custom House or office of a Collector of Customs and Excise or from HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3 7HE, quoting reference C1299.

Forms completed in accordance with paragraph 20 of Notice 825 should be forwarded to HM Customs and Excise, International Customs Division E, Branch 2, Room 113, Adelaide House, London Bridge, London EC4 R9DB. They will be returned to the exporter after endorsement.

Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5106.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 690, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 24 October 1975 contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on carbon brushes, excluding those intended for use with motor vehicles, classifiable under tariff subheading 85.24.90.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

A British computer control system designed for South African Nylon Spinners will enable a control operator to survey operations throughout the £16 million polyester plant being built at Bellville, Cape Province. The heart of the system is this 2-ft sq. colour graphic television which can provide information about any part of the huge plant. The new system has been developed by the Fibres Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Brunei

Customs tariff: end of UK preference. The Government of Brunei has announced that from 11 October 1975 the customs tariff has been amended to a single column tariff. The result is that preferential rates of duty which previously applied to certain goods from the UK have been discontinued. This change has been introduced to comply with the terms of Association of the EEC. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 469/468/401.

New Zealand

Customs tariff review. The New Zealand Customs Department has published the second list of items to be covered under the Customs Tariff Review (see *Trade and Industry*, 17 October 1975, page 181 for first list). The closing date for receipt of submissions in respect of the tariff items listed below is 30 November 1975.

Section IV
PREPARED FOODSTUFFS; BEVERAGES, SPIRITS AND VINEGAR; TOBACCO
16 Preparations of meat, of fish, of crustaceans or molluscs
17 Sugars and sugar confectionery
18 Cocoa and cocoa preparations
19 Preparations of cereals, flour or starch; pastrycooks' products
20 Preparations of vegetables, fruit or other parts of plants
21 Miscellaneous edible preparations
22 Beverages, spirits and vinegar
23 Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder
24 Tobacco

The Customs Department has indicated that British exporters who wish to make submissions should do so by letter (five copies) through the Commercial Department, British High Commission, PO Box 369, Wellington, New Zealand. Ref. CRE 45466. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5321.

Canada

Food and Drugs Act: Medical Devices Regulations. The *Canada Gazette*, 24 September 1975, published the Medical Devices Regulations which set out requirements for the labelling, testing procedures, importation, inspection and registration of such products. Details are available from OTAR ext. 455/456/457.

United States

Colour additives. The US Food and Drug Administration has published details of new regulations which would remove some obsolete material and amend certain colourings. The effective date 1 December 1975. A copy of the text is available to British exporters from OTAR ext. 456/457/7312.

Guyana

Exchange rate. On 9 October 1975 the Guyana dollar's link with sterling was severed and given a fixed exchange rate with the US dollar of G$2.55. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5296.

Netherlands Antilles

Import levy. Netherlands Antilles *Publicatieblad* numbers 143, 147 and 148 of 1975 contain Ministerial Orders introducing an import levy on certain products over and above the import duty already charged on the products.

The import levy is chargeable with effect from 11 August 1975, except in the case of items marked with an asterisk. For these the effective date is 25 August 1975.

Netherlands Antilles tariff heading	Abridged description of commodity	Import levy: percentage of cif value
ex 17.05	'Limonadesiroop'	20
19.04 A	Bread	10
19.05	Fine bakers' wares	10
22.02	Non-alcoholic beverages	NA fl. 100 per hl.
* 49.05 B	Illustrations on paper or paperboard	16
84.04	Air conditioning machines	16
84.05 B	Refrigerators, etc.	16
ex 85.05	Domestic dish-washing machines	16
ex 85.08 AIII and C	Colour TV sets and 'tubes'	16
ex 87.02 A	Passenger cars of 8,000 NA fl. or more	16
*ex 89.01 BI	Pleasure craft	16
ex 94.03	'Elementenkeukens' (kitchen furniture)	16

Copies of the Ministerial Orders (in Dutch) are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Brazil

Reference prices. The Brazilian authorities have established reference prices by means of Customs Policy Council Resolutions as follows:

Resolution 2,542, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 3 September 1975, chloramphenicol, tariff heading 29.44.04.00. The new price is US $33.00 per kilo cif.

Resolution 2,541, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 3 September 1975, range of tools under the following headings:

Tariff heading	Goods
82.03.01.00	Pliers, pincers, tongs and the like
82.03.03.00	Common spanners, box spanners, cross spanners, socket spanners, monkey wrenches, bolt spanners and similar tightening spanners
82.05.06.00	Twist drills of a diameter not exceeding 52mm
82.05.07.99	Drills having both parallel sided and conical shafts

The details have not been tabulated here as they are extensive; however the information will be incorporated in all tariff statements sent out. Exporters requiring this information urgently may obtain it by telephone.

Resolution 2,545, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 10 September 1975, raw cadmium, tariff heading 81.04.07.01. The new price is US $9.03 per kg cif.

Resolution 2,546, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 10 September 1975, ignition coils, tariff heading 85.08.03.00. The new price is US $0.40 per unit cif.

Resolution 2,547, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 11 September 1975, non-programmable electronic calculators, tariff heading 84.52.02.99. The prices are as follows:

Goods	Reference price of US $ cif per unit: Assembled	Unassembled
Electronic calculating machines, portable, non-scientific, having up to eight digits and at least one memory	22.80	16.00
Electronic calculating machine, portable, scientific	65.80	46.00
Electronic calculating machine, table model, not having a print-out	115.00	80.00
Electronic calculating machine, having a print-out	180.00	126.00

Resolution 2,551, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 16 September 1975, fixed electrolytic condensers, tariff heading 85.18.04.00. The new prices are as follows:

Goods	Reference price US $ cif per 1,000 units
Up to 0.8g inclusive	50.00
Over 0.8g up to 4.0g inclusive	70.00
Over 4.0g up to 11.5g inclusive	200.00
Over 11.5g	900.00

These reference prices will be applied even when the goods are unfinished.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Resolution 2,544, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 4 September 1975, exempted from import duty the following tyres, inner tubes and tyre flaps when imported directly by vehicle assembly companies:

Tariff heading	Size
40.11.01.02	7.50 × 15; 8.25 × 15
40.11.02.00	43 × 15; 49 × 15
40.11.03.00	For tyres of sizes 7.50 × 15 and 8.25 × 15

This concession is valid until 31 December 1975.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Duty exemptions. The Brazilian authorities have announced duty exemptions through Customs Policy Council Resolutions as follows:

Skim milk. Resolution 2,550, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 11 September 1975, exempted a quota of 6,000 tonnes of skim milk intended for COBAL, under tariff heading 04.02.02.01, from import duty.
Steel. Resolutions 2,548 and 2,549, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 16 September 1975 exempted from import duty a range of steel products.
Resolution 2,548 exempted certain products when imported by the following enterprises: CSN, COSIPA, USIMINAS and ACESITA. The whole of the following headings are affected: 73.06, 73.07, 73.08, 73.09, 73.11, 73.12, 73.13, 73.14, 73.15.
Resolution 2,549 exempted until 31 December 1975 certain products. The whole of the following headings are affected: 73.10, 73.11, 73.14, 73.15.
Tyres for construction vehicles. Resolution 2,553, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 16 September 1975, exempted from duty tyres for construction vehicles and inner tubes of size 28.1 × 26 falling under headings 40.11.01.03 and 40.11.02.00. The concession will lapse on 31 December 1975.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

The Nationalisation of British Industry 1945-51

Sir Norman Chester CBE MA

In July 1945 the Labour Party, under Mr Attlee's leadership, came to power with a large majority and remained in office until October 1951. The Election programme of the new Government contained a number of quite specific nationalisation proposals: the Bank of England, coal mining, inland transport, electricity and gas supplies, iron and steel. The primary aim of the author is to provide an impartial study of the process whereby the Government translated their programme into legislation and executive action. A series of major themes is dealt with: scope of acquisition and powers, compensation, structure of the industries, treatment of consumers and workers, and the powers of Ministers in respect of the newly established Boards. The setting up of the various Boards and some of their initial problems are also discussed in this important document (a constituent volume of the new *Peacetime History* series published by HMSO for the Cabinet Office).

£21 (£21.75)

Prices in brackets include postage.

Please send your orders/requests for free lists of titles (specifying subject/s), to HMSO, PM2C (202), Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1BN, or apply direct to HMSO Bookshops/Agents or booksellers.

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HMSO BOOKS

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Uruguay

Import duty concessions. Uruguayan decree 715/975, which extends the concessions granted by decree 229/975, extends the exemption of the following goods from payment of import duties and taxes until 31 March 1976:

Imports of raw sugar for refining; yerba mate (semi-processed); unroasted coffee beans; hessian; road-making machinery; medicaments and raw materials for their manufacture.

Imports of processed yerba mate will remain exempt from 50 per cent of these duties and taxes.

The concessions will apply to these goods only if they are imported free of surcharge or with a surcharge not exceeding 10 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Footwear machinery: duty exemption. Uruguayan decree 697/975 of 12 September 1975 extends the duty concessions for the import of footwear machinery (previously granted under 586/972 and extended by 637/974 of 8 August 1975) until 31 December 1975. The previous decrees exempted footwear machinery from the payment of surcharges, prior deposits, consular charges, customs duties and other import taxes. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Pedigree horses: duty exemption. Uruguayan decree 707/975 extends the ruling of decrees 418/970, 686/971, 737/972, 948/973 and 826/974 whereby imports of pedigree race-horses for breeding purposes are exempt from the payment of import duties, consular fees, prior deposits and other charges until 3 September 1976. Horses imported under this regime may not take part in any races. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Chile

Aeronautical balloons: duty increased. Chilean Ministry of Finance Decree 1,182 of 11 October 1975 amends the rates of duty for the following items:

Tariff no.	Description	New *ad valorem* rate
88.01.00.00 (01)	Balloons – for aeronautical and meteorological services	30%
88.01.00.00 (89)	Others	55%
88.03.01.00	Parts of goods falling in heading 88.01	30%

No further information is available at present. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Technology News

'War on Waste' conference

Speaking at the War on Waste Exhibition at Stoneleigh on 21 October, Gordon Oakes, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment commented that ideas of recycling and of reclamation had now become part of everyone's vocabulary.

The attitudes and expectations of the man in the street were, he believed, on the way to being irrevocably changed.

He admitted that one of the effects of the recession during the past year had been to damage the market for reclaimed materials. The most spectacular example had been waste paper. So far as paper itself was concerned, the government, had been considering with the industry whether it was possible to devise a scheme which would allow high enough stocks to be held in periods of weak demand, to keep, in particular, local authority collections going at a level which would at least cover costs. Although no decision had been reached the Department of Industry had been working hard on a scheme of this kind. There were of course difficulties: the cost of storing waste paper was high in relation to the value of the product; and it was essential that stocks should not be built up to a level where it would be impossible to absorb them when demand picked up again.

Fluctuating demand arose in relation to some other waste materials, including ferrous scrap. It was one of the subjects to which the economists on the Waste Management Advisory Council were giving particular attention. There were no wholesale solutions but one of the tasks of the Council's Economic Studies Group would be to establish criteria for intervention in the market so that we could judge where special schemes might be justified.

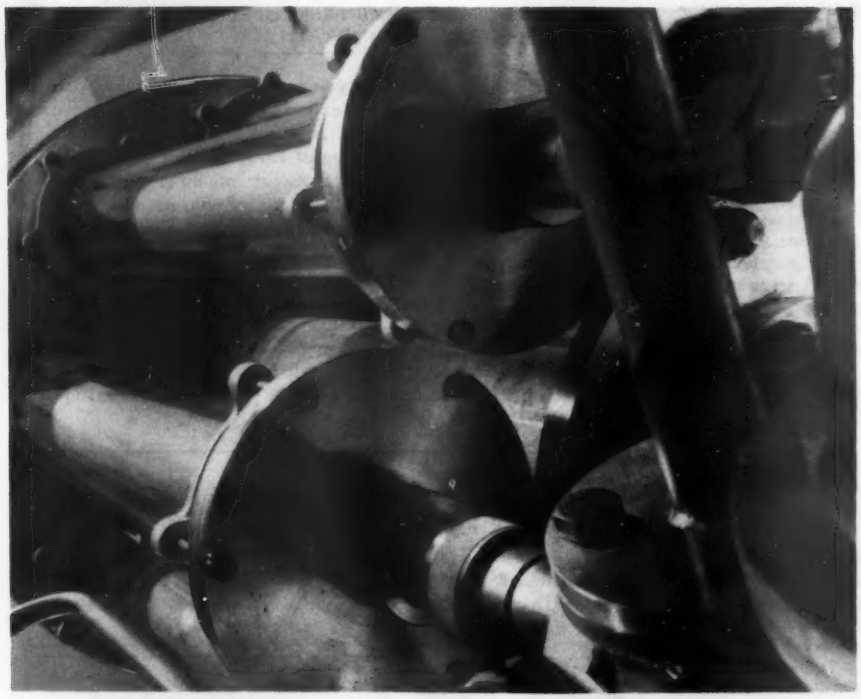
Referring to the Oxfam experiment at Kirklees, under which households are given a multi-bag refuse holder and asked to separate the different types of waste themselves, the Minister said that there had been many criticisms of the project. 'But I have a feeling that Oxfam – and Kirklees – are going to prove them wrong, or at any rate wrong at Kirklees.'

There were also some unforeseen benefits. The pilot stages of the Oxfam project had shown greater marketing possibilities for some commodities such as rags and aluminium foil than was originally conceived.

New techniques were extending the technical opportunities for reclamation and recycling. But this exploitation must be related to the nature and amount of wastes arising in any particular area and also to the economic prospects for particular reclaimed materials. The Department of Industry was sponsoring work at Warren Spring to study both the technical and economic aspects. The survey of all wastes arising in Oxfordshire was the first stage of this study, from which it was hoped to obtain basic data which might be extrapolated for wider use or adjusted in relation to other areas of the country. The final report was expected shortly.

There were gains to be made from making wastes available more widely known. As one means of doing this the government had set up a Waste Materials Exchange at Warren Spring which aimed to bring together producer and possible user of wastes not normally reclaimed. The results had been slow to start with but this method of extending reclamation obviously needed time to develop. Similar schemes were in operation in West Germany and Scandinavia and it could play a part in our War on Waste here.

There were some reasons for reclamation even when it would not at present pay the person or firm immediately concerned. If, for example, reclamation of waste collected by a local authority was saving that authority the cost of disposing of it, that saving should be taken into account, perhaps by making the disposal authority pay for getting rid of the waste. Equally, the need to conserve a scarce or irreplaceable material – or a material which could be replaced only at much greater cost – could lead us to consider whether reclamation should be promoted by fiscal or other means. In this context we should have to consider whether special weight could or should be given to energy and import savings. These were questions which the Waste Management Advisory Council would have to consider very carefully.



A high temperature spray reaction technique, for the conversion of a liquid feed to a finely-divided powder, being developed at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell. The feed solution is progressively dried and decomposed during its passage down through a vertical reaction zone at temperatures up to 1,500 degrees C., giving a product powder with excellent uniformity of composition. The picture shows part of the filter assembly used for the recovery of the product powder. The work is being carried out by the Materials Processing Group, in support of the High Temperature Chemical Technology Project.

Iranian students for Harwell

About 30 Iranian graduates are to be trained in various aspects of nuclear science and engineering at Harwell, following a three year specially designed course. The Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell will also act as consultants to the Tehran Nuclear Research Centre, using its experience, developed over some 30 years, to advise on how best the Tehran Centre might be adapted to Iran's requirements.

This co-operation between the AERE at Harwell and the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran follows from two agreements reached in Tehran on 19 October, which were signed by Dr. Walter Marshall, Director of AERE, on behalf of the UKAEA, and His Excellency Dr. Akbar Etemad on behalf of the AEOI.

Sodium-sulphur batteries to be developed . . .

An agreement to co-ordinate work on a sodium-sulphur battery, capable of producing almost five times as much energy as a conventional lead-acid battery of the same weight has been signed by the Department of the Environment, Department of Industry, British Railways Board, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and Chloride Silent Power Ltd.

Sodium-sulphur batteries use relatively cheap and abundant materials and if development problems can be overcome, will provide a battery capable of powering vehicles such as buses and delivery vans for up to 120 miles on one charge at speeds comparable to vehicles powered by petrol and diesel. On the railways the flexibility of operation would be improved, as a battery train could draw power from an electrified railway system as well as use its own battery power on a non-electrified system. The battery could also be used in levelling the load on the electricity generating system.

Research in Britain on sodium-sulphur batteries is currently being carried out at three laboratories – Chloride Silent Power Ltd., British Rail and Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell.

Under the terms of the agreement all parties have agreed to exchange information relating to the development, design and manufacture of sodium-sulphur batteries. The three research programmes will be individually managed and each has been integrated with the others to avoid duplication and to make the best use of resources. Certain aspects of the programme will be concentrated at individual laboratories.

All the patents and results of the separate research programmes will be vested in Chloride Silent Power Ltd., which will fund and control the patent action on behalf of all parties. In this way, a single body of knowledge will be generated. In return for the right to grant licences, Chloride Silent Power Ltd. has undertaken to pay back to Government the cost of the Department of Energy and the Department of Industry funded programmes out of its licence income and payments will begin after it has recovered costs of the development of sodium-sulphur batteries. The Government will therefore continue to share in the profits of the venture.

Although Chloride Silent Power Ltd. have exclusive rights to the results of the three programmes and will be free to licence others, they have undertaken to licence other manufacturers and organisations on a non-exclusive basis. British Rail, however, retains certain rights for the exploitation of the batteries for use in rail transport.

Several other countries have research programmes on the sodium-sulphur battery but Britain probably leads the world in its development. By creating a body of common knowledge, and allowing full freedom for each research programme Britain has every chance of maintaining this lead.

Work on the sodium-sulphur system first started in the United Kingdom at the Electricity Council Research Centre, Capenhurst, and at British Rail Research Laboratory, Derby, in 1967 leading to the successful demonstration of a 30kW/50kWh laboratory prototype driving the first sodium-sulphur commercial van at the end of 1972. To exploit this breakthrough Chloride Silent Power Ltd. was formed in 1974 as a joint venture between Chloride Group Ltd., the largest British battery manufacturer, and the Electricity Council. A four-year development programme funded at over £2 million has been launched to develop sodium-sulphur motive power batteries for use by city centre vehicles.

British Rail has been developing a high energy lightweight sodium-sulphur cell for use in rail transport. The Atomic Energy Research Establishment started its work three years ago and has a similar research programme fully integrated with the British Rail programme for designing sodium-sulphur cells. The two-year British Rail programme, amounting to £575,000 is funded by the Department of the Environment and the two-year Atomic Energy Research Establishment programme, amounting to £300,000, by the Department of Industry.

. . . while conventional batteries make progress

The conventional lead-acid battery is now powering vehicles for a variety of transport uses. A new film*, produced by the Electric Vehicle Association, demonstrates some of its advantages.

This means more than just savings in fuel costs; there are also economies in terms of insurance, depreciation and maintenance.

In various specialised situations, electric vehicles are already highly popular. In hospitals, they are ideal for fetching and carrying because, unlike internal combustion engines, they are pollution free and almost silent to run.

The film shows their use at Pegwell Bay hoverport and at a British Airways factory, moving loads, and also on the tarmac at Heathrow, servicing the big jets.

A typical electric van, designed to carry between 1-3 tons, has a range of about 40 miles, a maximum speed of 40 miles an hour and might cost about £4,000 at present prices.

Such a vehicle is ideally suited to collection and delivery services in urban situations, which combine a large number of stops and starts with low mileage. R. C. Day, Transport Manager of Initial Services Ltd., claims that when a costs study was carried out, it was estimated that by using electric vehicles, his firm could reduce vehicle delivery costs by over 30 per cent.

Lead-acid batteries last for about six years, which contributes substantially to the cheapness of the vehicle, when making such calculations. Until the sodium-sulphur battery is fully developed, there are still no serious competitors. Various high-energy, low density batteries have been designed, but as D. C. Pritchard of Chloride Industrial Batteries has commented, 'They work like a dream – for about a week.'

* The film 'Electric Vehicles – what are the facts?' is available from the Electric Vehicle Association of Great Britain, Trafalgar Buildings, 1 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DR (tel. 01-930 6757).

Controlling corrosion

The Department of Industry is organising a seminar as part of its campaign to increase awareness in industry of the possibilities of substantial savings through improved corrosion control. The seminar, entitled 'We Don't have Corrosion Problems in Our Company!' will take place on Thursday 6 November at the Waldorf Hotel in London.

The seminar fee will be £8.50, inclusive of coffee, lunch, tea and a copy of the Corrosion Directory. Further details can be obtained from the Department of Industry, Committee on Corrosion Secretariat, Room 540, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN (Tel. 01-211 5996).

Using electric vehicles, Initial Services Ltd. cut delivery costs

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,365	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in			£ million			£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	450	325	68	−30	735	−12	747
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,048	282	766
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−5	−175	48	−11	128	−690	818
1973	110	114	107	88	125	960	396	102	334	−835	−2,295	1,460
1974	110	114	105	98	113	553	666	81	−68	−3,668	−5,234	1,566
1972 3rd qtr.	104	110	103	79	115	8	−35	6	−16	−89	−280	191
4th qtr.	107	111	105	80	124	19	13	24	−10	−11	−213	202
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	109	86	130	353	166	37	51	−125	−329	204
2nd qtr.	109	112	104	83	118	274	88	3	185	−63	−388	325
3rd qtr.	110	114	107	92	120	155	46	29	47	−217	−583	366
4th qtr	109	114	107	89	132	178	96	32	51	−430	−995	565
1974 1st qtr.	106	113	108	97	112	−174	−31	18	−59	−846	−1,272	426
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	274	191	43	27	−947	−1,336	389
3rd qtr.	112	114	103	97	119	359	388	3	−14	−823	−1,199	376
4th qtr.	111	116	107	101	113	94	139	17	−22	−1,052	−1,427	375
1975 1st qtr.	110	116	106	93	102	−172	−4	−31	−57	−430	−836	406
2nd qtr.	107	114	103	86	100	−340	−121	−52	−52	−397	−687	290
3rd qtr.										−607 p	−937 p	330 **
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−2.5	—	−0.8	−9.4	−13.2							
on a year earlier	+0.5	+2.2	+0.5	−7.4	−8.9							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales*	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
			monthly averages										On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972					
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in			thousands							thousands		thousands	£ million at current prices	
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,528
1972	102.6	102.3	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,140	9,830
1973	110.2	110.9	110.7	137.3	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,771	14,066
1974	106.4	108.0	109.9	102.7	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.9ø	2.6ø	302.6ø	15,886	21,120
1974 1st qtr.	104.0	106.3	109.8	103	101.4	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	572.9	2.5	288.6	3,490	4,762
2nd qtr.	107.9	109.6	107.3	104	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	579.4	2.5	313.0	3,996	5,332
3rd qtr.	108.4	109.9	111.0	109	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	621.2	2.7	310.1	4,231	5,430
4th qtr.	105.3	106.1	111.6	96	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,169	5,596
1975 1st qtr.	104.4	105.7	111.5	106	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	733.3	3.2	..	4,532	5,368
2nd qtr.	100.1	100.2	108.7	91	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	849.7	3.7	159.8	4,461	5,148
3rd qtr.			105.3 p	103	139.4	26.6	239.0 p	193.4 p	185.1	1008.5	4.3	135.2	4,651 p	5,583 p
1974 Nov.	105.8	106.9	112.8	98	115.2	18.3	223.8	164.8	153.9	643.5	2.8	279.8	1,338	1,920
Dec.	103.8	104.9	110.8	87	116.9	19.1	222.5	167.6	158.0	..	..	..	1,450	1,834
1975 Jan.	105.1	107.2	113.0	109	119.9	19.9	222.1	173.0	159.8	709.0e	3.0 e	..	1,509	1,918
Feb.	105.0	106.6	112.3	113	121.9	19.9	218.8	175.9	162.0	736.7	3.2	196.3	1,479	1,806
Mar.	103.2	103.3	109.4	97	124.3	21.2	221.9	179.2	169.0	754.1	3.2	189.7	1,544	1,645
Apr.	101.5	101.7	120.2	89	129.1	21.7	222.9	182.5	170.1	794.2	3.4	176.5	1,365	1,726
May	99.5	99.5	102.5	90	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	853.5	3.7	158.6	1,612	1,693
June	99.5	99.6	104.5	95	137.1	26.1	227.7	189.0	182.4	901.4	3.9	144.4	1,484	1,729
July	100.0	100.3	104.7	89	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.4	976.5	4.2	131.6	1,569	1,923
Aug.	99.1	99.4	104.9	92	139.3	26.9	241.1 p	193.5 p	185.2	1008.8	4.3	136.7	1,492	1,866
Sept.			106 p	129	140.5	26.6	242.7 p	195.0 p	186.6	1040.1	4.5	137.4	1,589 p	1,799 p
Oct.										1088.6p	4.7	126.2		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−1.8	−1.7	−3.1	+13.2	+4.4		+5.9	+3.8	+5.0	+14.9		−7.9	+3½††	+9½††
on a year earlier	−8.5	−9.7	−5.1	−5.0	+26.6		+12.2	+23.9	+28.5	+65.6		−56.0	+10	+3

p Provisional * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100
ø Average of 11 months e Figure is estimate ** Figure is projection †† Average latest 3 months on average previous 4 months

Revision of seasonally adjusted overseas trade figures

It has become necessary to revise the seasonally adjusted overseas trade figures for the first nine months of 1975 following the discovery of an error in the computer programme used to calculate the adjustment factors.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 attached to this article give revised figures for the UK Balance of Payments Current Account and for Imports and Exports (both value and volume) in the same form as they are shown in the usual monthly article. Corresponding revisions to the more detailed figures will be incorporated in a subsequent article when the October figures are issued on 14 November, but will be available on request as soon as they have been compiled.

The effect of the amendments is to increase the seasonally adjusted total of imports for the first three-quarters of 1975 by 1½ per cent and to reduce very slightly the total of exports for this period. The visible deficit for trade in goods is accordingly increased on average by £30 million a month. There is, however, virtually no change to the visible balance as previously published for August and September, and the recent trends as shown by comparison of the figures for March/June and July/September are also scarcely altered.

The revisions do not involve any changes to the recorded figures of overseas trade before seasonal adjustment or in the computation of the whole balance of payments and its financing. They relate solely to the conversion of the recorded figures on to a seasonally adjusted basis.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	⊙ fifty-three week period
p provisional	

TABLE 1 Current Account of the UK balance of payments

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: trade in goods			Invisible balance:
		Petroleum and petroleum products	Other goods	Total	Services and other current transactions
1974	−3,668	−3,423	−1,811	−5,234	+1,566
1974 1st quarter	−846	−736	−536	−1,272	+426
2nd quarter	−947	−888	−448	−1,336	+389
3rd quarter	−823	−880	−319	−1,199	+376
4th quarter	−1,052	−919	−508	−1,427	+375
1975 1st quarter (c)	−430	−782	−54	−836	+406
2nd quarter (c)	−397	−694	+7	−687	+290
3rd quarter	−607	−795	−142	−937	+330 (a)
January	−274	−331	−78	−409	+135 (b)
February	−191	−250	−77	−327	+136 (b)
March (c)	+35	−201	+101	−100	+135 (b)
April (c)	−264	−224	−137	−361	+97 (b)
May (c)	+16	−231	+150	−81	+97 (b)
June	−149	−238	−7	−245	+96 (b)
July	−244	−254	−100	−354	+110 (a)
August	−264	−280	− 94	−374	+110 (a)
September	−100	−261	+51	−210	+110 (a)
Monthly averages					
1975 Mar.-Jun.	−91	−223	+27	−197	+106
Jul.-Sep.	−203	−265	−48	−313	+110

(a) These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.
(b) One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.
(c) The monthly figures for visible trade in March, April and May were distorted by the industrial dispute at the Port of London.

TABLE 2 UK visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Exports (fob)	Imports (fob)	Visible balance
1973	11,771	14,066	−2,295
1974	15,886	21,120	−5,234
1973 1st quarter	2,669	2,998	−329
2nd quarter	2,831	3,219	−388
3rd quarter	3,072	3,655	−583
4th quarter	3,199	4,194	−995
1974 1st quarter	3,490	4,762	−1,272
2nd quarter	3,996	5,332	−1,336
3rd quarter	4,231	5,430	−1,199
4th quarter	4,169	5,596	−1,427
1975 1st quarter (a)	4,532	5,368	−836
2nd quarter (a)	4,461	5,148	−687
3rd quarter	4,651	5,588	−937
1975 January	1,509	1,918	−409
February	1,479	1,806	−327
March (a)	1,544	1,645	−100
April (a)	1,365	1,726	−361
May (a)	1,612	1,693	−81
June	1,484	1,729	−245
July p	1,569	1,923	−354
August p	1,492	1,866	−374
September p	1,589	1,799	−210
Monthly averages			
1975 Mar.-Jun.	1,501	1,698	−197
Jul.-Sep. p	1,550	1,863	−313
Percentage change	+3½	+9½	

p Provisional estimates.
(a) The monthly figures for visible trade in March, April and May were distorted by the industrial dispute at the Port of London.

TABLE 3 Import and export unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

	Unit values index numbers (not seasonally aojusted)			Volume index numbers (seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade*	Exports	Imports
1973	126.0	139.7	90.2	121.8	134.0
1974	162.7	217.3	74.9	130.1	135.4
1973 1st quarter	119.3	123.4	96.7	117.2	128.9
2nd quarter	123.8	133.1	93.0	120.2	129.2
3rd quarter	129.1	146.7	88.0	124.6	135.6
4th quarter	136.1	162.0	84.0	125.4	142.4
1974 1st quarter	147.2	194.5	75.7	126.7	134.7
2nd quarter	159.9	218.4	73.2	132.5	137.1
3rd quarter	168.1	224.2	75.0	134.3	135.4
4th quarter	175.8	231.3	76.0	126.6	134.4
1975 1st quarter†	184.9	237.8	77.7	130.9	126.8
2nd quarter†	193.4	241.2	80.2	123.9	122.0
3rd quarter	202.4	244.7	82.7	121.7	127.9
1975 January	182.2	236.6	77.0	132.4	133.1
February	185.1	237.1	78.1	128.6	128.5
March†	187.4	239.8	78.1	131.7	118.8
April†	191.0	241.4	79.1	115.6	124.1
May†	193.3	241.4	80.1	134.7	119.6
June	196.0	240.8	81.4	121.5	122.3
July	199.8	241.8	82.6	124.1	133.0
August	202.5	244.8	82.7	116.9	125.1
September	204.9	247.4	82.8	124.0	125.5
Monthly averages					
1975 Mar.-Jun.	191.9	240.9	79.7	125.9	121.2
Jul.-Sep.	202.4	244.7	82.7	121.7	127.9
Percentage change	+5½	+1½	+4	−3½	+5½

* Export unit value index as a percentage of the import unit value index.
† The monthly figures for visible trade in March, April and May were distorted by the industrial dispute at the Port of London.

Insolvencies in England and Wales during the third quarter of 1975

After allowing for seasonal variation, company liquidations continued to rise in the third quarter of 1975, having increased continuously since mid-1973. Bankruptcies, which relate insolvent individuals, also rose in the third quarter, more than off-setting the slight fall in the previous quarter. Both series reached their highest level since at least the beginning of 1960.

Table 1 shows that, after seasonal adjustment, there were about 1,370 company liquidations in the third quarter of 1975, made up of about 480 compulsory liquidations and about 890 creditors' voluntary liquidations. The number of compulsory liquidations was lower than in the previous quarter but this was more than off-set by a rise in creditors' voluntary liquidations. The total is about 2 per cent higher than in the previous quarter and about 34 per cent higher than in the third quarter of 1974. Before seasonal adjustment, there were 1,135 company liquidations, made up of 276 compulsory liquidations and 859 creditors' voluntary liquidations.

Table 1 also shows that, after seasonal adjustment, there were about 1,900 receiving orders made during bankruptcy proceedings in the third quarter of 1975 (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement), an increase of about 7 per cent compared with the previous quarter and an increase of about 25 per cent compared with the third quarter of 1974. Before seasonal adjustment, the figure was 1,719.

The chart illustrates the quarterly, seasonally adjusted figures for receiving orders (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) and company liquidations since the beginning of 1968. As the chart shows, there was a general fall in the number of insolvencies from mid-1970 to mid-1973 followed by a sharp rise.

Industrial analysis

Table 2 gives the industrial analysis of receiving orders administered (including administration orders and deeds of arrangement) up to the second quarter of 1975. This table excludes orders which were rescinded before the business of the debtor could be investigated; the quarterly totals therefore do not agree with those of Table 1, which are for all receiving orders, administration orders and deeds of arrangement made during the quarter.

Table 2 shows that, compared with the first quarter of 1975, there was very little change in the industrial analysis of receiving orders administered in the second quarter. Receiving orders for self-employed persons remained steady at about two-thirds of the total, within which about 16 per cent of the total were in distribution and under 3 per cent in manufacturing as in the previous quarter. Construction remained the largest single category, at about one quarter of the total.

Table 3, which gives the industrial analysis of company liquidations, also shows very little change between the first and second quarters. Liquidations of manufacturing companies remained steady at a little less than one quarter of the total and liquidations of construction companies remained steady at about one fifth. There was a slight fall in distribution, from 21 to 18 per cent, and in financial and professional services, from 18 to 16 per cent. But changes as small as this should not be regarded as significant, if only because of the difficulty of making a precise industrial classification in many cases.

TABLE 1 Insolvencies

England and Wales — Number

	Bankruptcies					Company liquidations					
	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted			Seasonally adjusted		
	Total	Receiving orders	Administration orders	Deeds of arrangement	Total	Total	Compulsory	Creditors' voluntary	Total	Compulsory	Creditors' voluntary
1968	4,298	4,123	27	148		3,165	1,108	2,057			
1969	4,772	4,532	20	220		3,510	1,181	2,329			
1970	5,087	4,878	29	180		3,689	1,269	2,420			
1971	4,793	4,630	13	150		3,506	1,166	2,340			
1972	4,337	4,225	19	93		3,063	1,150	1,913			
1973	3,917	3,805	12	100		2,575	1,080	1,495			
1974	5,716	5,594	12	110		3,720	1,395	2,325			
1968 1st quarter	1,231	1,190		41	1,121	897	307	590	850	287	563
2nd quarter	1,024	985		39	1,040	775	279	496	772	271	501
3rd quarter	932	907		25	1,020	586	148	438	731	270	461
4th quarter	1,111	1,068		43	1,117	907	374	533	812	280	532
1969 1st quarter	1,231	1,173		58	1,135	872	318	554	824	296	528
2nd quarter	1,059	1,055		40	1,094	871	308	563	864	298	566
3rd quarter	1,215	1,157		58	1,319	798	171	627	957	305	652
4th quarter	1,231	1,167		64	1,224	969	384	585	865	282	583
1970 1st quarter	1,314	1,273		41	1,236	981	318	663	942	305	637
2nd quarter	1,321	1,280		41	1,308	966	339	627	971	335	636
3rd quarter	1,219	1,174		45	1,324	744	169	575	893	303	590
4th quarter	1,233	1,180		53	1,219	998	443	555	883	326	557
1971 1st quarter	1,171	1,145		26	1,116	760	310	450	731	299	432
2nd quarter	1,253	1,205		48	1,230	945	285	660	945	280	665
3rd quarter	1,137	1,092		45	1,238	777	172	605	920	302	618
4th quarter	1,232	1,201		31	1,209	1,024	399	625	910	285	625
1972 1st quarter	1,222	1,197		25	1,180	877	291	586	856	288	568
2nd quarter	1,200	1,175		25	1,177	799	293	506	804	293	511
3rd quarter	866	844		22	950	614	160	454	746	280	466
4th quarter	1,049	1,028		21	1,030	773	406	367	657	289	368
1973 1st quarter	1,011	982		29	973	710	273	437	700	275	425
2nd quarter	952	919		33	931	653	308	345	660	312	348
3rd quarter	875	858		17	961	463	130	333	574	230	344
4th quarter	1,079	1,058		21	1,052	749	369	380	641	263	378
1974 1st quarter	1,320	1,294		26	1,267	713	264	449	701	266	435
2nd quarter	1,341	1,314		27	1,307	844	309	535	849	312	537
3rd quarter	1,377	1,355		22	1,515	829	224	605	1,018	394	624
4th quarter	1,678	1,643		35	1,627	1,334	598	736	1,152	423	729
1975 1st quarter	1,938	1,900		38	1,862	1,240	540	700	1,222	541	681
2nd quarter	1,816	1,783		33	1,775	1,319	593	726	1,333	603	730
3rd quarter	1,719	1,693		26	1,897	1,135	276	859	1,365	478	887

TABLE 2 Industrial analysis of receiving orders administered(1)

England and Wales

Industry	Numbers							Percentages						
			1974			1975				1974			1975	
	1973	1974	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	1973	1974	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.
Self-employed														
Agriculture	71	93	17	20	39	34	37	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.4
Manufacturing:														
Food, drink and tobacco	4	4	—	—	3	—	—	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.2	—	—
Chemicals	1	11	—	10	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	0.9	—	—	—
Metals and engineering	59	44	4	10	8	11	14	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.9
Textiles and clothing	26	41	6	16	12	6	8	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.4	0.7	0.3	0.5
Timber and furniture	19	24	10	3	4	12	12	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.8
Paper, printing and publishing	15	16	7	—	7	2	9	0.4	0.3	0.6	—	0.4	0.1	0.6
Other manufacturing	12	12	4	—	6	5	—	0.3	0.2	0.3	—	0.3	0.3	—
Total manufacturing	136	152	31	39	40	36	43	3.9	2.9	2.5	3.4	2.2	2.1	2.8
Construction	741	1,031	280	239	281	437	367	21.3	19.4	22.8	20.8	15.6	25.1	23.5
Road haulage	112	343	57	59	129	114	88	3.2	6.4	4.6	5.1	7.2	6.5	5.6
Wholesaling:														
Consumer goods	60	42	11	7	1	16	16	1.7	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.9	1.0
Non-consumer goods	83	55	8	7	18	21	11	2.4	1.0	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.7
Retailing:														
Food	247	344	82	77	114	95	79	7.1	6.5	6.7	6.7	6.3	5.5	5.1
Non-food	396	567	124	118	239	167	148	11.4	10.7	10.1	10.3	13.3	9.6	9.5
Financial and professional services	158	229	81	71	21	69	74	4.5	4.3	6.6	6.2	1.2	4.0	4.7
Hotels and restaurants	157	210	52	37	76	59	55	4.5	3.9	4.2	3.2	4.2	3.4	3.5
Garages	186	198	37	34	67	62	41	5.4	3.7	3.3	3.0	3.7	3.6	2.6
Other consumer services	162	192	42	48	21	45	54	4.7	3.6	3.4	4.2	1.2	2.6	3.5
Other industries	46	34	3	7	11	19	12	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.8
Total	2,555	3,490	825	763	1,057	1,174	1,025	73.5	65.6	67.2	66.4	58.8	67.4	65.7
Other individuals														
Employees, no occupation and unemployed	684	1,389	343	333	606	456	431	19.7	26.1	28.0	29.0	33.7	26.2	27.6
Directors and promoters of companies	193	239	44	36	128	84	69	5.6	4.5	3.6	3.1	7.1	4.8	4.4
Occupation unknown	43	203	15	17	7	27	35	1.2	3.8	1.2	1.5	0.4	1.6	2.2
Total	920	1,831	402	386	741	567	535	26.5	34.4	32.8	33.6	41.2	32.6	34.3
All receiving orders administered	3,475	5,321	1,227	1,149	1,798	1,741	1,560	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note:

(1) Receiving orders made during the year, *less* those consolidated or rescinded before the end of the year, together with administration orders and deeds of arrangement on the same basis.

The totals for all receiving orders administered are thus not equal to the totals shown in Table 1. The construction of the quarterly figures is explained in the notes at the end of the article.

High Court and County Court figures

The figures for receiving and administration orders and compulsory liquidation winding-up orders made in the High Court and County Courts during the third quarter of 1975 and the four preceding quarters are as follows:

	1974		1975		
	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.
Receiving and administration orders					
High Court	227	442	458	445	334
County Courts	1,128	1,201	1,442	1,338	1,359
Total	1,355	1,643	1,900	1,783	1,693
Compulsory liquidation winding-up orders					
High Court	150	515	448	461	174
County Courts	74	83	92	132	102
Total	224	598	540	593	276

Notes

An article describing these statistics and giving quarterly figures from the beginning of 1960 to the end of 1974 (with industrial analyses from the beginning of 1969 to the third quarter of 1974) was published in *Economic Trends* for March 1975.

The figures for bankruptcies in Table 1 refer to persons, who are dealt with under the Bankruptcy Act 1914 and the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act 1926 or who make arrangements with their creditors under the Deeds of Arrangement Act 1914. A receiving order is made by the court on the petition of a creditor if it is satisfied that the debtor has committed an act of bankruptcy, as listed in Section 1 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, or on the petition of the debtor himself. The order makes the official receiver, who is an officer of the court, receiver of the debtor's estate and deprives the debtor of the right to deal with it. Administration orders, which are made under Section 130 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914, relate to deceased insolvents. Deeds of arrangement relate to arrangements between debtors and creditors that are reached, without recourse to the courts, under the Deeds of Arrangement Act 1914.

Insolvent partnerships are dealt with under the Bankruptcy Acts and are included in the figures for receiving orders in Table 1. A single receiving order may be made against a partnership or receiving orders may be made against partners individually, when each is included in Table 1. If separate receiving orders are made, they are consolidated before being proceeded with and appear as a single receiving order in Table 2.

Receiving orders administered, referred to in Table 2, are those receiving orders not consolidated or rescinded before the end of the year. For the first three quarters of the year the industrial analysis in Table 2 is compiled about two months after the end of the quarter, to allow time for the statistics to be collected. Some of these receiving orders may later be rescinded. The analysis for the fourth quarter is obtained by subtracting the figures for the first three quarters from the figures for the full year. This results in the figures for the fourth quarter being understated compared with the other quarters, but the anomaly is probably not serious when the analysis is viewed in percentage terms.

Insolvent companies are dealt with under the Companies Acts 1948 and 1967 and the figures for company liquidations in Table 1 refer to the two types of liquidation that involve insolvency. The figures for compulsory liquidations relate to winding-up orders made by the courts. The figures for creditors' voluntary liquidations, in which the company and its creditors come to terms without court proceedings, relate to notifications of resolutions to wind-up. There is a third type, members' voluntary liquidations; these do not involve insolvency and they are not included in the figures in this article.

There is considerable seasonal variation between quarters in the insolvency series, mainly because about 25 per cent of all receiving

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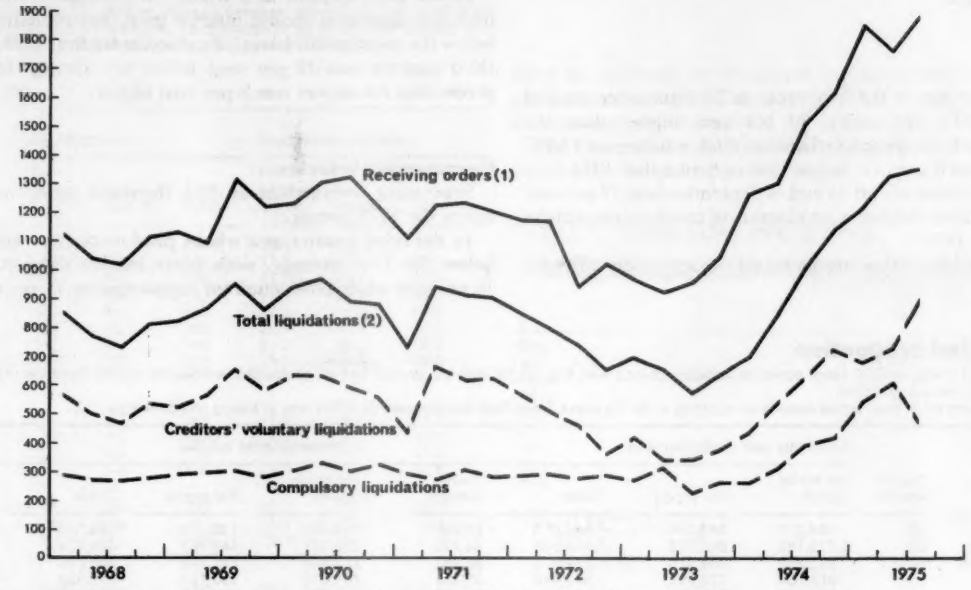
Insolvencies in England and Wales

Number per quarter, seasonally adjusted



(1) Including administration orders and deeds of arrangement. (2) Compulsory plus creditors' voluntary liquidations.

orders and about 80 per cent of all compulsory liquidations are dealt with by the High Court, which has fewer sittings in the third quarter compared with other quarters because of the long vacation. For receiving orders, the seasonal fall in the third quarter is made up in each of the other quarters approximately equally. Compulsory liquidations are more strongly seasonal, with a large fall in the third quarter followed by a large rise in the fourth. Creditor's voluntary liquidations are not particularly seasonal but seasonally adjusted figures for them are included in Table 1.

Questions are often asked about the distribution of insolvencies by size or by region but it would be impracticable or very costly to assemble statistics of this sort. There is no satisfactory measure of the size of an insolvency because a business tends to decline over a period and there are the problems of deciding for what time the size should be assessed and what measure should be used, and of obtaining this information retrospectively.

For regional statistics of bankruptcy, figures for receiving orders dealt with in the various courts provide some basis because cases are transferred to the court for the area in which the debtor lives or has his place of business. Annual figures for receiving orders analysed by court are given in the Bankruptcy General Annual Report. Regional statistics of company liquidations cannot be obtained in this way because of the large proportion of cases dealt with by the High Court. There is also the difficulty that, although the address of the company's registered office may be known, the activities of the company are usually located elsewhere and often extend over a wide area.

TABLE 3 Industrial analysis of total compulsory and creditors' voluntary liquidations

England and Wales

	Numbers							Percentages						
			1974			1975				1974			1975	
Industry	1973	1974	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	1973	1974	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.
Agriculture	9	16	3	3	6	6	13	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.0
Manufacturing:														
Food, drink and tobacco	35	62	16	19	17	20	9	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.3	1.3	1.6	0.7
Chemicals	22	33	8	10	11	11	5	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.4
Metals and engineering	253	323	66	86	99	90	99	9.8	8.7	7.8	10.4	7.4	7.3	7.5
Textiles and clothing	124	171	34	51	54	37	63	4.8	4.6	4.0	6.2	4.0	3.0	4.8
Timber and furniture	61	124	23	33	42	35	31	2.4	3.3	2.7	4.0	3.1	2.8	2.4
Paper, printing and publishing	116	124	22	32	54	47	44	4.5	3.3	2.6	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.3
Other manufacturing	111	109	23	17	42	48	41	4.3	2.9	2.7	2.1	3.1	3.9	3.1
Total manufacturing	722	946	192	248	319	288	292	28.0	25.4	22.7	29.9	23.9	23.2	22.1
Construction	500	776	184	162	269	240	277	19.4	20.9	21.8	19.5	20.2	19.4	21.0
Road haulage	139	213	44	53	73	71	76	5.4	5.7	5.2	6.4	5.5	5.7	5.8
Wholesaling:														
Consumer goods	114	130	28	23	56	37	34	4.4	3.5	3.3	2.8	4.2	3.0	2.6
Non-consumer goods	119	191	48	40	74	95	73	4.6	5.1	5.7	4.8	5.5	7.7	5.5
Retailing														
Food	76	81	21	13	24	23	29	3.0	2.2	2.5	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.2
Non-food	233	270	64	59	93	103	100	9.0	7.3	7.6	7.1	7.0	8.3	7.6
Financial and professional services	354	612	146	146	214	219	210	13.7	16.5	17.3	17.6	16.0	17.7	15.9
Hotels and restaurants	55	136	37	24	57	33	44	2.1	3.7	4.4	2.9	4.3	2.7	3.3
Garages	55	74	17	11	25	26	41	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.3	1.9	2.1	3.1
Other consumer services	75	81	14	14	41	28	39	2.9	2.2	1.7	1.7	3.1	2.3	3.0
Other industries	124	194	46	33	83	71	91	4.8	5.2	5.5	4.0	6.2	5.7	6.9
Total	2,575	3,720	844	829	1,334	1,240	1,319	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Motor vehicle output in September

Recorded car production in the five weeks to 27 September totalled 119,363 units (23,873 per week), 20 per cent higher than the September 1974 level. Production of commercial vehicles, at 33,997 (6,799 per week), was 8 per cent below that in September 1974.

Cumulative production of cars to end of September was 17 per cent below last year's, while cumulative production of commercial vehicles fell 2 per cent from 1974.

(The summaries which follow are based on the seasonally adjusted figures in Table 2.)

Cars

Seasonally adjusted, September car production of 116 thousand units was 9 per cent below the average monthly level in 1974.

In the third quarter as a whole, car production rose substantially from the depressed second quarter level, but remained 12 per cent below the average 1974 level. Production for the home market in the third quarter was 19 per cent below the average for 1974, while production for export was 2 per cent higher.

Commercial vehicles

September production, at 32.1 thousand units, was 4 per cent below the 1974 average.

In the third quarter as a whole, production was again 4 per cent below the 1974 average, with home market production falling by 16 per cent while production for export rose by 11 per cent.

TABLE 1 Recorded production

Production figures of road motor vehicles cover complete vehicles, chassis with engines for delivery as such and un-assembled vehicles for export. Road tractors are included but battery operated road vehicles are excluded.

Production for export may differ from actual exports as recorded in the Oversees Trade Statistics because of differences in timing and coverage.

		Passenger cars (including taxis)				Commercial road vehicles			
	No. of weeks	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average	For home market	For export	Totals	Weekly average
1967	52	988,273	563,740	1,552,013	29,846	245,692	139,414	385,106	7,406
1968	52	1,013,163	802,773	1,815,936	34,922	259,331	149,855	409,186	7,869
1969	53	892,758	824,315	1,717,073	32,398	272,998	192,778	465,776	8,788
1970	52	918,109	722,857	1,640,966	31,557	267,407	190,125	457,532	8,799
1971	52	1,027,462	714,478	1,741,940	33,499	268,278	187,928	456,206	8,773
1972	52	1,307,881	613,430	1,921,311	36,948	272,649	135,470	408,119	7,848
1973	52	1,142,216	605,105	1,747,321	33,602	257,574	159,049	416,623	8,012
1974	52	937,932	596,187	1,534,119	29,502	232,373	170,193	402,566	7,742
1975	52								
1974 1st quarter	13	237,232	150,688	387,920	29,840	52,641	36,845	89,486	6,884
2nd quarter	13	275,355	164,041	439,396	33,800	63,122	46,063	109,185	8,399
3rd quarter	13	185,497	121,121	306,618	23,586	50,233	39,800	90,033	6,926
4th quarter	13	239,848	160,337	400,185	30,783	66,377	47,485	113,862	8,759
1975 1st quarter	13	242,571	139,736	382,307	29,408	61,402	46,808	108,210	8,324
2nd quarter	13	145,107	142,664	287,771	22,136	49,650	48,435	98,085	7,545
3rd quarter	13	151,830	117,925	269,755	20,750	39,136	38,724	77,860	5,989
4th quarter	13								
1974 January	4	61,781	37,628	99,409	24,852	13,989	9,595	23,584	5,896
February	4	73,721	50,721	124,442	31,110	16,048	11,428	27,476	6,869
March	5	101,730	62,339	164,069	32,814	22,604	15,822	38,426	7,685
April	4	74,411	40,917	115,328	28,832	18,881	12,913	31,794	7,948
May	4	99,873	58,240	158,113	39,528	20,614	15,513	36,127	9,032
June	5	101,071	64,884	165,955	33,191	23,627	17,637	41,264	8,253
July	4	56,304	37,405	93,709	23,427	14,978	12,841	27,819	6,955
August	4	56,368	46,662	113,030	28,258	14,701	10,495	25,196	6,299
September	5	62,825	37,054	99,879	19,976	20,554	16,464	37,018	7,404
October	4	73,584	49,228	122,812	30,703	20,846	14,332	35,178	8,794
November	4	84,742	55,632	140,374	35,094	22,364	16,125	38,489	9,622
December	5	81,522	55,477	136,999	27,400	23,167	17,028	40,195	8,039
1975 January	4	79,301	46,278	125,579	31,395	19,997	14,429	34,426	8,606
February	4	84,826	43,032	127,858	31,964	19,669	15,619	35,288	8,822
March	5	78,444	50,426	128,870	25,774	21,736	16,760	38,496	7,699
April	4	57,260	48,895	106,155	26,539	16,866	14,418	31,284	7,821
May	4	35,750	36,423	72,173	18,043	15,879	16,070	31,949	7,987
June	5	52,097	57,346	109,443	21,888	16,905	17,947	34,852	6,970
July	4	39,303	32,345	71,648	17,912	10,995	12,480	23,475	5,869
August	4	40,219	38,525	78,744	19,686	10,117	10,271	20,388	5,097
September	5	72,308	47,055	119,363	23,873	18,024	15,973	33,997	6,799
October	4								
November	4								
December	5								

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many Government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

TABLE 2 Production – seasonally adjusted

The seasonally adjusted series has been adjusted to exclude the effect of regularly recurring influences (eg holidays) but the figures still reflect the effect of factors that do not recur regularly (eg strikes).

Care should be taken not to interpret changes between one month and another as necessarily indicating the underlying trend. The averages in the latest three months and the previous three months give a more reliable guide to recent changes.

MONTHLY AVERAGE — Thousands

	Passenger cars			Commercial vehicles		
	For home market	For export	Total	For home market	For export	Total
1967	82	47	129	20.5	11.6	32.1
1968	84	67	151	21.6	12.5	34.1
1969	74	69	143	22.7	16.1	38.8
1970	77	60	137	22.3	15.8	38.1
1971	86	59	145	22.3	14.7	38.0
1972	109	51	160	22.7	11.3	34.0
1973	95	50	145	21.5	13.2	34.7
1974	78	50	128	19.3	14.2	33.5
1975						
1974 1st quarter	69	42	111	16.6	11.7	28.3
2nd quarter	85	47	132	19.6	14.2	33.8
3rd quarter	83	55	138	21.3	16.2	37.5
4th quarter	76	54	130	19.9	14.7	34.6
1975 1st quarter	76	43	119	20.1	15.5	35.6
2nd quarter	46	43	89	15.8	15.0	30.8
3rd quarter	68	51	113	16.2	15.7	31.9
4th quarter						
1974 January	56	44	100	15.2	12.3	27.5
February	70	36	106	16.2	11.0	27.2
March	80	46	126	18.5	11.7	30.2
April	79	32	111	19.9	13.8	33.7
May	93	56	149	21.3	14.5	35.8
June	81	55	136	17.7	14.2	31.9
July	97	66	163	22.0	16.7	38.7
August	88	61	149	22.1	16.8	38.9
September	64	37	101	19.8	15.1	34.9
October	72	49	121	18.8	14.0	32.8
November	82	60	142	20.1	15.3	35.4
December	75	53	128	20.8	14.8	35.6
1975 January	78	53	131	21.7	17.4	39.1
February	85	36	121	20.2	15.8	36.0
March	65	40	105	18.4	13.4	31.8
April	61	46	107	17.4	15.2	32.6
May	34	36	70	16.5	15.3	31.8
June	43	48	91	13.6	14.6	28.2
July	66	56	122	16.0	16.4	32.4
August	52	50	102	15.1	16.1	31.2
September	70	46	116	17.4	14.7	32.1
October						
November						
December						
Average of:						
April-June 1975	46	43	89	15.8	15.0	30.8
July-Sept. 1975	63	51	113	16.2	15.7	31.9
Percentage change	+36	+17	+27	+2	+5	+3

Manufacturers' stocks in August

It is provisionally estimated that manufacturers' stocks fell by about £70 million at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in August. The largest fall appears to have been in stocks of materials and fuel, although stocks of all three assets have probably been reduced.

Monthly figures from January 1975 are shown below.

	£ million, 1970 prices seasonally adjusted
1975 January	No change
February	+40
March	−40
April	+10
May	−20
June	−110
July	−80
August	−70

Sales by wholesale textile houses

Sales by wholesale textile houses in August showed a decrease of 11 per cent on a year earlier, compared with a decrease of 2 per cent in June and an increase of 7 per cent in July.

The value of stocks at the end of August showed no change compared with the same period last year.

TABLE 1 Total sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* — 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	*−3*	..	..
1967	104	*−5*	..	..
1968	108	*4*	..	..
1969	103	*−5*	..	..
1970	107	*4*	..	..
1971	115	*8*	..	..
1972	121	*5*	..	..
1973	134	*11*	..	..
1974	147	*9*	..	..
1973 1st quarter	120	*18*	184	*12*
2nd quarter	123	*11*	171	*17*
3rd quarter	130	*6*	173	*12*
4th quarter	163	*10*	204	*21*
1974 1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
2nd quarter	131	*7*	202	*18*
3rd quarter	148	*13*	194	*12*
4th quarter	173	*6*	198	*−3*
1975 1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*−2*
1974 August	141	*13*	207	*15*
September	185	*16*	194	*12*
October	206	*12*	192	*18*
November	156	*1*	222	*10*
December	158	*5*	198	*−3*
1975 January	99	*18*	205	*15*
February	155	*15*	213	*16*
March	176	*−3*	219	*16*
April	149	*7*	195	*8*
May	128	*4*	213	*3*
June	130	*−2*	197	*−2*
July	125	*7*	210	*2*
August	126	*−11*	206	—

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks‡
	August 1975	Jan.-August 1975	August 1975
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	5	1	−15
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	18	22	76
Women's underwear	19	11	4
Women's hose and children's socks	−15	−15	−6
Women's millinery	−15	4	13
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	1	3	47
Children's wear	−5	−8	−20
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	−6	−7	−3
Gloves	−22	−17	22
Piece-goods and nets	—	−1	−19
Household textiles	1	2	−18
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	−20	10	−3
Boots and shoes	18	—	8
Total†	−11	4	—

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Notes

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, the Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (tel. 01-580 2902).

Metal working machine tools

Monthly analysis of sales and orders for June and July 1975. This article presents in Table 1 provisional monthly statistics of manufacturers' sales and orders for metal working machine tools up to July of this year. These monthly values of sales and orders will also be published in Business Monitor PM 332. The monthly estimates for the year 1974 have been adjusted to be consistent with the results of the more comprehensive quarterly inquiry published in Business Monitor PQ 332 now available for all four quarters of 1974. The latest provisional estimates for the first seven months of 1975 will be similarly revised when the appropriate quarterly information becomes available.

Summary

Provisional monthly statistics of sales and orders show a pattern of declining activity in the machine tool industry in recent months with lower levels of sales, new orders and order books for both home and export markets.

After rising in current price terms during 1974 and then holding steady between the fourth quarter of last year and the first quarter of 1975, the overall level of sales in the three months May-July has now fallen by 12 per cent compared with the preceding three months. Sales in the latest months are still 9 per cent higher in current price terms than in the same period of 1974 but this difference is less than the increase in ex-factory prices over the year and in volume terms, deliveries in May-July were somewhat lower than a year earlier.

The intake of new orders in these three months has fallen back markedly as compared with the previous three months and even more sharply from the level in the corresponding period of 1974. This mainly reflects low levels of new orders suggested by the provisional estimates for June and July. The rates of receipt of both home and export orders have fallen, but exports have suffered proportionately greater, having decreased sharply in the latest three months to half their levels of a year ago. In volume terms the present low level of order intake, which reflects the weakness in industrial investment, is now probably similar to that experienced in the trough of the previous downturn.

Though orders-on-hand in July continued to show a decline in both home and export sectors, they still appear at relatively favourable levels, corresponding to about eight months and 11 months work respectively at recent rates of activity as indicated by home and export sales.

Recent trends for machine tools

The latest monthly figures now available show that sales in the three months up to July of this year fell back by 12 per cent on the preceding three months to a level of £68 million. It is probable that sales have passed their peak levels reached at the end of 1974 and in the first quarter of this year, especially as the decrease in recent months would have been greater but for rising prices.

TABLE 1 Metal working machine tools: orders and sales

£ million

	Sales			Orders outstanding*			New orders		
	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export
1966	164.0	118.9	45.1	110.7	78.0	32.7	160.1	114.1	46.0
1967	171.2	123.9	47.3	100.9	54.1	46.8	161.4	100.0	61.4
1968	168.5	113.5	55.1	116.1	61.7	54.4	183.8	121.1	62.7
1969	189.1	119.1	70.0	164.2	93.3	70.9	237.2	150.7	86.5
1970	218.6	137.3	81.3	159.2	86.8	72.7	213.9	130.8	83.1
1971	207.7	121.7	86.0	106.0	46.0	60.0	154.2	80.9	73.3
1972	184.7	111.6	73.1	113.3	55.7	57.6	192.0	121.3	70.7
1973	214.2	130.6	83.6	205.9	112.6	93.3	306.8	187.5	119.3
1974	249.9	147.6	102.3	264.0	127.1	136.9	308.0	162.1	145.9
1973 3rd quarter	51.0	29.5	21.5	177.1	95.5	81.6	84.4	48.6	35.8
4th quarter	56.7	34.6	22.1	205.9	112.6	93.3	85.5	51.7	33.8
1974 1st quarter	55.1	34.0	21.1	230.8	120.7	110.1	80.0	42.1	37.9
2nd quarter	56.1	33.0	23.1	261.1	133.4	127.7	86.4	45.7	40.7
3rd quarter	63.3	38.2	25.1	273.9	134.7	139.2	76.1	39.5	36.6
4th quarter	75.4	42.4	33.0	264.0	127.1	136.9	65.5	34.8	30.7
1975 1st quarter p	75.6	45.3	30.3	248.1	114.9	133.2	59.7	33.1	26.6
2nd quarter p	70.4	39.7	30.7	237.7	110.2	127.5	60.0	35.0	25.0
1974 January	15.0	9.3	5.7	214.1	114.6	99.5	23.2	11.3	11.9
February	18.1	10.6	7.5	226.0	119.1	106.9	30.0	15.1	14.9
March	22.0	14.1	7.9	230.8	120.7	110.1	26.8	15.7	11.1
April	16.6	9.8	6.8	243.9	123.7	120.2	29.7	12.8	16.9
May	20.2	12.1	8.1	253.3	130.2	123.1	29.6	18.6	11.0
June	19.3	11.1	8.2	261.1	133.4	127.7	27.1	14.3	12.8
July	23.1	13.7	9.4	267.0	133.0	134.0	29.0	13.3	15.7
August	18.0	11.1	6.9	271.7	134.9	136.8	22.7	13.0	9.7
September	22.2	13.4	8.8	273.9	134.7	139.2	24.4	13.2	11.2
October	27.3	14.9	12.4	272.2	134.2	138.0	25.6	14.4	11.2
November	27.4	15.9	11.5	266.9	131.9	135.0	22.1	13.6	8.5
December	20.7	11.6	9.1	264.0	127.1	136.9	17.8	6.8	11.0
1975 January p	23.0	14.0	9.0	260.3	123.0	137.3	19.3	9.9	9.4
February p	25.1	14.9	10.2	255.8	119.4	136.4	20.6	11.3	9.3
March p	27.5	16.4	11.1	248.1	114.9	133.2	19.8	11.9	7.9
April p	24.4	13.4	11.0	247.8	114.2	133.6	24.1	12.7	11.4
May p	24.7	14.0	10.7	244.9	113.7	131.2	21.8	13.5	8.3
June p	21.3	12.3	9.0	237.7	110.2	127.5	14.1	8.8	5.3
July p	22.0	11.5	10.5	231.4	108.6	122.8	15.7	9.9	5.8
Three monthly totals									
May 1975-July 1975	68.0	37.8	30.2	231.4	108.6	122.8	51.6	32.2	19.4
February 1975-April 1975	77.0	44.7	32.3	247.8	114.2	133.6	64.5	35.9	28.6
May 1974-July 1974	62.6	36.9	25.7	267.0	133.0	134.0	85.7	46.2	39.5
Percentage change latest three months on:									
1. Previous three months	−12	−15	−7	−7	−5	−8	−20	−10	−32
2. A year earlier	+9	+2	+18	−13	−18	−8	−40	−30	−51

p = provisional.
* The values for orders outstanding relate to the ends of the periods shown.
Due to rounding, constituent figures may not sum to their respective totals.

Both home and export sales declined in recent months, with home sales falling by 15 per cent to reach a level of only 2 per cent above the corresponding level during the three months May to July of last year. The smaller fall in export sales of 7 per cent still leaves the latest three monthly total 18 per cent higher than a year earlier, reflecting perhaps a modest increase in the volume. As the overall level of sales was only 9 per cent above the level in the same period of last year, however, this represents some decrease in the volume of total sales.

The particularly low receipt of new orders (net of cancellations) in recent months has resulted in the level between May and July 1975 falling 20 per cent in current price terms below that in the previous three months, a trend which the most recent quarterly data (ie, for the first and second quarters of 1975) appears to obscure. The decline in the recent intake was relatively sharper in the export sector, where new orders fell back by 32 per cent on the previous three months, while home orders at a three-monthly level of £32 million decreased by 10 per cent. The latest three-monthly level of ordering appears particularly low compared with the same period of 1974, having fallen by 40 per cent overall. The period May-July 1974 however was probably at about the peak in the latest ordering cycle and hence tends to accentuate the current decline. Over the same 12 months, new export orders fell by 51 per cent and home orders by 30 per cent; the decreases in volume would be somewhat greater after allowing for rising prices.

With the intake of new orders continuing significantly below sales in the latest three months, order books have fallen in consequence by 7 per cent overall, to a current value level of £231 million. Within the total, export order books decreased by 8 per cent and home order books by 5 per cent in the last three months, but in July the level of export orders-on-hand exceeded orders outstanding for the home market by £14 million. The values of £123 million for export and £109 million for home orders-on-hand represent perhaps about 11 and eight months work respectively as measured by the reduced levels of recent sales (ie, deliveries by manufacturers in May to July 1975). While the present order position could sustain activity in the industry for some months, certain producers will be less favourably placed than others; and if new orders do not revive then sales will continue to decrease.

Foreign arrivals in the United Kingdom during August

During August 913,000 foreign visitors, including all travellers from the EEC countries, arrived in the United Kingdom, according to figures released by the Department of Trade and the British Tourist Authority. (This figure excludes visitors from the Irish Republic and Commonwealth citizens.) This represents an increase of 10 per cent over August 1974, and an increase of 11 per cent for the first eight months of 1975 over the corresponding period of 1974.

Arrivals from the EEC countries in August were 512,000, an increase of 12 per cent on last year, with the largest increases being from Netherlands (22 per cent), Belgium/Luxembourg (16 per cent), France (18 per cent) and Italy (18 per cent). Visitors from Germany fell 7 per cent, their first decrease since April when the figures were greatly affected by Easter. During the first eight months of 1975, 2,751,000, visitors arrived from EEC countries, an increase of 13 per cent on the same period of 1974. Increases for individual EEC countries for the first eight months ranged from 8 per cent (Italy and Germany) to 18 per cent (Belgium/Luxembourg).

Arrivals from the rest of Western Europe rose 24 per cent during August and 18 per cent for the first eight months. Sweden (27 per cent), Spain (29 per cent) and Norway (47 per cent) showed particularly large increases in August.

The number of visitors from the rest of the world increased in August by 2 per cent to 284,000 compared with a year ago. Visitors from the United States decreased by 11 per cent (down by 7 per cent for the first eight months), but visitors from Japan rose by 9 per cent (8 per cent for the first months) and from other countries by 27 per cent.

Foreign arrivals

Thousands per month

	Total arrivals from EEC countries (excluding Irish Republic)		Foreign visitors from non-EEC countries: Rest of Western Europe (non-EEC)		United States		Other foreign countries		Total non-EEC countries	
1967	126		30		70		23		123	
1968	144		34		73		29		136	
1969	174		40		95		35		170	
1970	199		47		117		41		205	
1971	214		53		129		46		228	
1972	232		59		134		51		244	
1973	265		70		131		62		263	
1974	280		75		107		68		250	
	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA
1974										
January	141	263	38	70	50	114	40	64	128	248
February	132	265	38	70	42	114	35	67	115	251
March	216	273	53	73	68	108	52	71	173	252
April	320	273	79	75	95	109	52	66	226	250
May	295	281	63	70	121	100	62	62	246	232
June	313	281	96	75	160	106	83	69	338	250
July	560	280	154	75	189	103	120	70	463	248
August	458	294	93	76	167	103	111	67	371	246
September	298	287	86	84	159	108	96	68	342	260
October	243	281	77	76	103	105	70	69	249	250
November	188	302	62	80	69	106	49	76	180	262
December	196	281	58	76	58	103	52	70	168	249
1975										
January	164	304	45	83	50	112	53	79	148	274
February	166	327	49	88	44	115	49	92	142	295
March	323	302	82	91	68	106	69	92	219	289
April	264	301	69	81	82	92	61	75	212	248
May	346	312	79	83	114	93	70	69	263	245
June	345	307	109	84	143	93	89	74	340	249
July	631	312	178	86	178	96	142	83	498	265
August	512	322	116	93	148	92	137	85	400	270
September										
October										
November										
December										
Jan.-Aug. 1974	2,436		615		891		553		2,059	
Jan.-Aug. 1975	2,751		726		825		670		2,221	

Total arrivals = all persons admitted, including long-stay and short-stay visitors from EEC countries
Foreign visitors = all persons entering for visits of under one year from non-EEC countries excluding Commonwealth countries.
UA = unadjusted. SA = seasonally adjusted. Source: Home Office.

Notes

The figures in the table are limited to foreign nationals, excluding Commonwealth citizens and citizens of the Irish Republic.

For non-EEC countries visitors entering for a stay of under one year are shown while, for EEC countries, total arrivals are shown irrespective of their purposes of visit or length of stay. This follows the entry of the United Kingdom into the EEC, since when citizens of Community countries are generally admitted to the United Kingdom without having to state their purpose of visit, or expected length of stay.

Seasonally adjusted figures: Simple comparisons of monthly figures between one year and another, or between adjacent months, can be misleading. The seasonally adjusted figures provide a better basis for comparison with other months, or for judging current trends. In estimating the seasonal adjustments allowance has been made for changes in the seasonal pattern, which have been in the direction of a spreading of the tourist season, with some reduction in the summer peak relative to the rest of the year. Adjustment was also made for the effect of the varying date of Easter on numbers of Western European visitors.

The seasonally adjusted series are liable to revision when subsequent figures become available and should therefore, for the most recent months, be viewed with caution.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Business Monitor

The following titles and issues of Business Monitor are now available:

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PQ 364	Radio and electronic components for first quarter 1975
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PQ 383	Aerospace products for first quarter 1975
PQ 390	Engineers' small tools and gauges for first quarter 1975
PQ 399.2	Metal windows and door frames for second quarter 1975
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PQ 432	Leather goods for second quarter 1975
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Business Monitors in the Production series and Miscellaneous series, and certain Monitors (Nos. SD 1 to SD 9) in the Service and Distributive series, are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. The annual Monitors are individually priced, and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at either the Department of Industry Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, or the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors) and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government Bookshops or through booksellers.

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during September 1975 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	2,314	—	2,314
Over £100 but under £1,000	73	—	73
£1,000 but under £10,000	891	—	891
£10,000 but under £50,000	375	—	375
£50,000 but under £100,000	52	—	52
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	67	—	67
£1,000,000 and over	9	—	9
Total number	3,781	—	3,781
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	32,241	—	32,241

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1974 and 1975

	1974		1975	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	4,758	27,824	3,648	18,631
February	2,870	81,582	3,442	22,886
March	3,393	21,763	3,440	28,511
April	3,679	50,557	4,944	24,352
May	3,878	36,111	4,245	42,314
June	3,329	29,037	3,468	20,856
July	3,730	32,961	3,752	26,703
August	3,274	37,822	3,267	47,668
September	3,214	36,037	3,781	32,241
October	3,481	25,421		
November	3,115	36,422		
December	3,039	21,298		
Total	41,760	436,835		

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday 24 October 1975.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Royal Windsor	BR/E 38288/25/10/80	24	20 October	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Philip Hill
Overlord	BR/E 38291/25/10/80	84	24 October	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	James Quinn, Joswend Ltd. and Magic Casement Productions Ltd.
Movietone News 2420	BR/E 38135/25/10/80	8	24 October	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
The Killer Is On The Phone	EC 38286/25/10/80	83	20 October	Cathay Films Ltd.	Difnei Cinematografica, Rome
The Bit Player	EC 38287/25/10/80	A 96 B 84	20 October	Ron Harris Cinema Services Ltd.	Les Productions de la Gueville SNEG, Paris and Euro International, Rome
			FOREIGN		
Life Size	F 38285	99	20 October	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Uranus Productions and Les Productions Fox-Europa, Paris
Bug	F 38289	101	21 October	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	William Castle Productions Inc., California
Where The Red Fern Grows	F 38290	97	23 October	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Doty Dayton Releasing Inc., California

Amendments to the Register
The registration number of the film 'The Naked Man', registered on 25 September 1975, has been amended to EC 38259/27/9/80 and the maker's name to Filmkommanditgesellschaft Arca-Winston Films Corporation GmbH and Co., West Berlin.
The title of the film 'Last Chance' (EC 37942/23/2/80), registered on 18 February 1975, has been amended to 'Motel of Fear' and the playing time cut from 102 to 101 minutes.

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	16 May 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	17 Oct. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	3 Oct. 1975
Catering trades turnover (M)	17 Oct. 1975
Census of production (A)	19 Dec. 1974
(amendment)	16 Jan. 1975
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	26 Sept. 1975
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	15 Aug. 1975
insolvencies (Q)	This week
liquidity (Q)	12 Sept. 1975
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	This week
N. Ireland (M)	3 Oct. 1975
rate of return on capital	24 Oct. 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1975
EEC economic indicators	3 Oct. 1975
Energy trends (M)	3 Oct. 1975
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	24 Oct. 1975
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	10 Oct. 1975
cinema admissions and takings (M)	3 Oct. 1975
overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
registrations of films (A)	6 Feb. 1975
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	10 Oct. 1975
household consumption (Q)	3 Oct. 1975
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	17 Oct. 1975
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	10 Oct. 1975
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	8 Aug. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	10 Oct. 1975
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	24 Oct. 1975
N. Ireland index (M)	24 Oct. 1975
Wales	10 Oct. 1975
Insolvencies in England and Wales (Q)	This week
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	10 Oct. 1975
investment and earnings overseas (A)	14 Mar. 1975
(amendment)	21 Mar. 1975
Machine tools: sales and orders (M)	This week
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	5 Sept. 1975
production (M)	3 Oct. 1975
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	5 Sept. 1975
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	This week
estimated figures (M)	17 Oct. 1975
motor trade turnover (Q)	22 Aug. 1975
Office development permits (Q)	26 Sept. 1975
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	11 Apr. 1975
UK overseas trade in 1973	16 May 1974
unit value and volume index numbers (M)	This week
value: analysis of trends (Q)	29 Aug. 1975
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Paper and board production (M)	30 Jan. 1975
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Regional selective assistance (M)	17 Oct. 1975
Retail prices index (M)	24 Oct. 1975
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	10 Oct. 1975
provisional figures (M)	24 Oct. 1975
sales, N. Ireland (M)	24 Oct. 1975
stocks (M)	17 Oct. 1975
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	11 Apr. 1975
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	23 Jan. 1975
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	26 Sept. 1975
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	3 Oct. 1975
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	This week
retail (M)	17 Oct. 1975
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	25 Apr. 1975
carpet sales (M)	24 Oct. 1975
cotton industry production (M)	19 Sept. 1975
hosiery production (M)	17 Oct. 1975
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	10 Oct. 1975
wholesale houses' sales (M)	This week
wool exports (Q)	20 June 1975
wool output (M)	19 Sept. 1975
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	This week
overseas travel and tourism (A)	7 Mar. 1975
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	13 June 1975
index numbers (M)	24 Oct. 1975

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	3 Oct. 1975
Customs notices of interest to exporters	10 Oct. 1975
ECGD local offices	10 Oct. 1975
Guide to Departments	11 July 1975
Official Receivers' offices	3 Oct. 1975
Programme of trade promotions	24 Oct. 1975
Release dates of economic statistics	24 Oct. 1975

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Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

13 November 1975 Miscellaneous Stores

Please note new location: The Post House, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton SO1 0HJ

Auctioneers: Richard Austin and Wyatt (Dept. L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants PO16 7AX (tel. 03292-4211)

The lots which are lying at various depots in Hampshire include an ALC/Jones 6/10-ton mobile crane, tractors, vehicles and machine tools. Aluminium, batteries, electrical spares, kitchenware, photographic material, pallets, tools, tyres and wooden boxes. 300 lots of furniture including bookcases, bureaux, chairs, tables, wardrobes, etc. 300 lots of clothing and textiles which include blankets, boots, greatcoats, carpets, jerseys, rags and many other items.

19 and 20 November 1975 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: Hilltop Motor Hotel, London Road, Carlisle

Auctioneers: Harrison and Hetherington (Dept. L), Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle CA1 2RS (tel. 0228 26292)

A large quantity of Government surplus stores, including 123 motor vehicles, ie Bedford, Austin, Morris, Commer and Ford vans, various saloons, Land Rovers, Bedford coaches, utilicons, Lister and Mercury trucks, Scammel and Lister trailers, forklifts, etc. Machine and hand tools including welding, grinding, folding and bending machines, lathes, guillotines, spanners, drills, vices, pliers, etc. Electric and electronic equipment, including amplifiers, power units, receivers, indicators, oscilloscopes, consoles, transformers, relays, switches, alternators, attenuators, generators, insulators, resistors, switch gear, valves and transistors. Stop and pocket watches, cameras, binoculars, gyro units, slide rules, light meters, verniers and depth gauges. Service clothing, boots and shoes, webbing equipment, tents, photographic stores, hose, aluminium and steel sheets, oxygen equipment, metal containers, wooden boxes, furniture, typewriters, tyres, paints and many other items.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 10p (postal orders only).

Wembley Auction Sales 1975/76

4 November 1975

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Division Store India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Office and Miscellaneous Furniture Engineering, Electrical, Canteen, Domestic and Other Equipment
Auctioneers:	Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell 52 Bow Lane London EC4M 9ET Tel. 01-248 7954
Catalogue:	Direct from the auctioneer price 10p each

Department of Trade

Ship for Sale

Offers are invited for the purchase of the undermentioned crane lighter 'as lying' at HM Naval Base, Rosyth

'Crane Lighter No. 13' Dumb Barge, steel, built 1942. GRT 515. NRT 448. Length 130 ft. Breadth 48 ft. Depth 10 ft.

Copies of form of purchase agreement, further particulars, plan and authority to inspect can be obtained from the Department of Trade, Room 42, Parliament Square House, 34/36 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2ND (tel. 01-212 8996).

Offers should be addressed to the Department of Trade, Room 43 at the above address in envelopes clearly marked 'Offer to Purchase "Crane Lighter No. 13" ' and must be received not later than *noon* on 27 November 1975.

The above information is given for guidance only and any prospective purchaser must satisfy himself regarding actual details of the vessel and her present condition.

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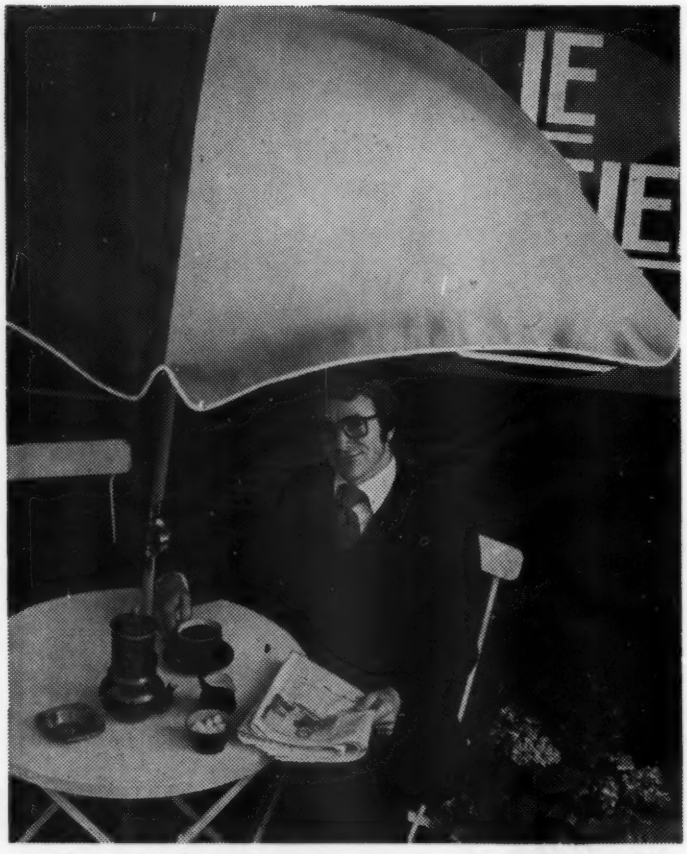

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